189 Tinian families can now start building their homes. » PAGE 3

Ospreys land on Tinian in Valiant Shield operation. » PAGE 5

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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STALLED CUC OIL PIPELINE PROJECT, POWER PLANTS INSPECTED

Judge averse to CUC receiver

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge David O. Carter did another on-site inspection Saturday of the stalled Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s oil pipeline project and Power Plants 1 and 2 in Lower Base.

» EPA, CUC, CNMI agree to hold sensitive settlement negotiations

At a session after the inspection, Carter stated he is reluctant to appoint a receiver for some CUC projects—as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency had requested—and even complimented CUC for doing "a lot of improvements" at its facilities and operations.

The receivership issue will be heard on Wednesday.

At a session last night, U.S. Department of Justice Environmental Enforcement Section senior attorney Bradley R. O'Brien disclosed that EPA, CUC, and the CNMI government have made substantial progress after their meeting earlier that noon.

O'Brien said the parties are now engaged in "sensitive settlement discussions" and that they want the discuss

See JUDGE on Page 2

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge David O. Carter, third from left, stresses a point as he looks at a portion of the new oil pipeline that has "bad welding" based on visual inspection. Joining Carter's on-site inspection on Saturday at the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s pipeline and other projects were CUC U.S. Environmental Protection Agency counsels and officials, and acting attorney general Gilbert Birnbrich. The parties, however, are now conducting "sensitive settlement negotiations" that may resolve the receivership issue.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

US Senate adds CNMI immigration to energy bill

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

» Separate bill allows offshore mineral revenues for CNMI

With only a few congressional session days left before 2014 ends, the U.S. Senate added Thursday night three CNMI immigration policies to an insular areas energy bill then passed the combined bill and sent it back to the U.S. House of Representatives. These immigration policies include extending beyond Dec. 31, 2014 the CNMI's exemption from accepting asylum applicants, extending the islands' E2-C investor visa, and extending the numerical cap on H visas for Guam and the CNMI.

But there is no telling when the U.S. House will act on the Senate-amended bill, with the U.S. House in recess for district work this week.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) called the Senate's move among a flurry of "last-minute actions" on Thursday night.

"The extension would keep the policies in place until the end of 2019," Sablan said.

See US on Page 2

August arrivals dip 4 pct.

August 2014 visitor arrivals to the Northern Mariana Islands dipped 4 percent compared to August 2013. According to the Marianas Visitors Authority, arrivals to the islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota registered 42,991 visitors in August 2014, compared to 44,996 visitors received in August 2013.

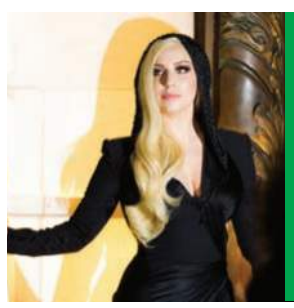
Arrivals from China grew 63 percent to 17,601 visitors, making China the largest source market for the NMI in August. Century Tours launched two additional charter flights a week from Shanghai to Saipan starting July 25 until Aug. 29, which has had a major impact on arrivals from the East China market. MVA worked with Century Tours and *Cosmo Bride Magazine* to arrange a film shoot on Saipan with

See AUGUST on Page 4

INSIDE

LOCAL
Mother Nature had a ball Friday night at the 3rd Green Gala.
» PAGE 14

ASIA
A storm brings torrential monsoon rains that flood much of the Philippine capital.
» PAGE 18



LIFE & STYLE
After hip surgery, Lady Gaga says things are finally looking up.
» PAGE 20

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Local

JUDGE

From Page 1

the matter off the record.

This prompted Carter to call the parties involved to his chamber for a private discussion. That included O'Brien, EPA assistant regional counsel Janet Magnuson, EPA environmental engineer and on-scene coordinator Michelle Rogow, CUC legal counsel James Sirok, acting attorney general Gilbert Birnbrich, Office of the Attorney General Civil Division chief Reena Patel, and CUC executive director Alan Fletcher. When *Saipan Tribune* left the courtroom at 6:55pm, they were still in the judge's chamber.

Carter flew in from Santa Ana, Calif., so he could personally inspect the progress made on the oil pipeline and Tank 102 projects as well as other projects covered by stipulated order No. 2.

Before doing the inspection, Carter held a briefing on how he would conduct the inspection at the oil pipeline and Tank 102 in Lower Base.

The oil pipeline is an 8-inch aboveground receiving pipeline that delivers diesel fuel from the Mobil oil facility to CUC Power Plants 1 and 2 in Lower Base. The pipeline project was initiated in 2010 at a cost of $1.8 million but this has since ballooned to $6 million due to several problems that contributed to the project's delay.

Tanks 101 and 102 are large aboveground oil storage tanks that were dismantled due to corrosion and tank roof damage. The removal of Tanks 101 and 102 left Tank 103 as the only large oil storage tank at Power Plants 1 and 2.

Tank 102 is critical to the CNMI's needs as Tank 103 is CUC's only aboveground storage tank that can hold more than one day's supply of fuel. Tank 102's construction was stopped early in the process because of poor workmanship by CUC's contractor, according to EPA.

Although federal grant funding was enough to build Tank 102, EPA said that CUC must now find more funds to complete the tank since its previous contractor spent the grant money.

Present at Saturday's briefing were O'Brien, Magnuson, Sirok, Birnbrich, Fletcher, some CUC engineers and managers, and some EPA officials.

Carter said he plans to inspect Power Plant 4 this afternoon, Monday.

Carter told Fletcher that CUC has been doing well with replacing its meters, although there are some failures.

Carter said he came to Saipan to resolve issues.

Fletcher rreplied that he wants to show what CUC has accomplished.

Carter and the parties then left the courtroom in separate vehicles at 9am to begin the inspection.

Carter and the parties first walked to the Mobil terminal at the seaport, where the pipeline starts, then all the way to CUC's power plants in Lower Base.

During the walk, the judge took photos of sections of the old and new pipelines. He asked the accompanying officials several questions.

At one point, Carter had a question for Smithbridge Guam Inc., the terminated contractor for the oil pipeline project, but the company had no representative present. He then instructed Smithbridge counsel Mark Hanson to come to the site "right away."

Sirok got a hold of Hanson on the phone and asked Carter if Hanson could talk to him on the phone. The judge replied "No, I want him here."

Sirok later relayed to Carter that, according to Hanson, there was no need for him to be there because the contract of his client, Smithbridge, had already been terminated by CUC.

Carter later cited about 12 to 13 welds on the new pipeline and that seven to eight of those can't be verified whether they're good or not.

Longworth explained that they're bad welds based on visual inspection.

Next up for inspection was Tank 102 and other tanks at the power plants. After less than three hours, Carter, accompanied by a court security officer, walked back to near Mobil where he parked his vehicle.

At 2pm, Carter called the parties for a session in the courtroom, where they discussed the receivership issue, the inspection, and other issues.

Carter described the inspection as a "very educational walk" with both parties. He said there's "positive things in that walk" that he was not aware of before.

He said he wants Smithbridge counsel Hanson to be in court today, Monday, for a session. Sirok stated that Hanson will attend the hearing.

Carter said he wants to see an inventory of materials for the pipeline project that are apparently in Smithbridge's possession.

He said he learned that Smithbride is reluctant or not willing to turn over some materials, apparently because they have not been paid yet.

Sirok clarified that there's no lawsuit between Smithridge and CUC, only a dispute. Sirok said CUC and the CNMI have not received a notice of dispute from EPA.

Sirok said if EPA wants to take action against CUC under stipulated order No. 2, then they are required to have an informal process such as filing a notice of dispute, before they could proceed with formal process.

"This court really has no jurisdiction for the motion of receivership," Sirok pointed out.

Sirok said until administrative remedies are exhausted, then EPA can take judicial review.

Birnbrich said the CNMI joins in CUC's position.

EPA counsel O'Brien said Sirok "unfortunately fails to review the stipulated orders."

Citing a section of the stipulated order, O'Brien said EPA can bring court action without administrative process because of its unique nature and because serious health and environmental concerns are at stake.

In this case, there is imminent substantial danger to the environment, he said.

O'Brien said no one can dispute that the old pipeline poses a danger to the public's safety, health, and environment.

He said Tank 103 has a leak that contributes to oil contamination at Power Plants 1 and 2, and that it appears to be leaking.

Carter edged in a word of praise for CUC, saying "it is certainly improving" and that he does not want to have a showdown with the Executive Branch on the receivership.

He said that jumping to a receivership is something that he is hesitant to make because a receiver historically becomes a chief executive officer in-house.

"I'm worried of receivership," he said. "I'm hesitant to do that."

O'Brien said it is ridiculous and bad faith to say that the court has no jurisdiction, citing CUC's numerous violations and failures of stipulated orders over the past several years.

Sirok said he is not saying that the court has no jurisdiction on stipulated orders, but only on receivership.

Sirok said the pipeline does not pose an imminent substantial danger. He reiterated that CUC has not discussed any dispute with EPA yet.

Sirok said the report about a leak at Tank 103 is speculative as there's nothing in the declaration other than Rogow's, and that there is no specific data to support it.

Carter noted that during his prior visit, there was a lot of oil contamination at the tanks. Sirok replied that that was a year ago.

Birnbrich said the CNMI is a signatory to the stipulated orders, but specifically was not ordered to do anything. He said a dispute resolution process would be the ideal, but not receivership.

O'Brien said there is funding issue for the CNMI, but they did not ask the court to find it in breach and in contempt. He said what they asked from the CNMI government is to fund CUC so it could comply with the stipulated orders.

As for CUC, O'Brien said they asked for contempt, breach, and receivership. He said the court can find CUC in breach and appoint a receiver without finding it in contempt.

"We have a contaminated power plant and leaking pipeline or possible leaking pipeline," he said.

Carter said his indication but not his ruling is that he is reluctant to appoint a receiver. He is, however, inclined to carve out an order for Tank 102 and pipeline.

The parties later agreed with Carter to hold informal talks yesterday at noon.

"You have to negotiate, but you don't have to resolve," the judge told the parties.

Carter recently expressed "deep concerns" over the delay on the construction of the oil pipeline. He pointed out that the pipeline construction has only, at most, preliminarily started. The original deadline for construction of the new pipeline was February 2011.

The federal court signed stipulated orders for CUC in 2009, setting the requirements and deadlines for the utilities agency to meet. The orders represent an agreement between the CNMI and the EPA on how CUC will come into compliance with the requirements of the Clean Air Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act.

US

From Page 1

The U.S. Senate added the CNMI's three immigration policies to Delegate Donna Christensen's (D-Virgin Islands) H.R. 83, which passed the U.S. House early last week.

H.R. 83 requires the U.S. Interior secretary to put together energy teams that would work with American Samoa, the CNMI, Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Freely Associated States on lowering the cost of electricity.

At present, residential customers in the CNMI pay 40 cents per kilowatt-hour, which is three times the U.S. average.

The bill will help local governments develop and implement plans to reduce reliance on the imported fossil fuels that make electricity so expensive in America's insular areas.

"Getting legislation enacted

See US on Page 4

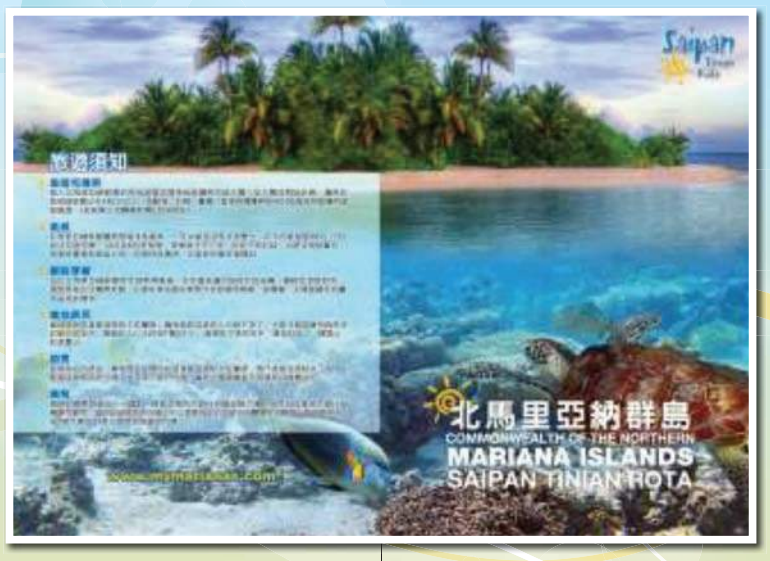
Tourism Topics

A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority

Tourism is everybody's business.

2014 Taiwan International Tourism Expo

On Aug. 29-Sept. 1,2014, the **Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA)** participated in the **2014 Taiwan International Tourism Expo (TITE)**, reaching out to 180,000 visitors who attended.



The MVA joined the **Association of National Tourism Office Representatives (ANTOR)** in its complimentary booth to showcase island lifestyle, promoting the NMI as an adventure and popular destination. The expo also provided the opportunity to promote and sell the recently developed Asiana Airlines tour package. Over 500 promotional flyers were distributed at the MVA counter.

At the TITE press conference on Aug. 26, the MVA joined the announcement of the promotion "**ANTOR** Taiwan: Super Blogger" to the 11 TV networks and 15 online and print media who attended.

Saipan Tinian Rota

HAFA ADAI & TIROW WAY

189 Tinian families can now start building their homes

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

For the first time in at least a dozen years, 189 homestead lot permits were issued Friday on Tinian so that families can now start building their future dream homes at the West San Jose Subdivision. The Department of Public Lands said at least 348 more homestead permits will be issued in about eight to 10 months for two other subdivisions on Tinian.

Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider told *Saipan Tribune* on Friday that the long-awaited distribution of homestead permits for close to 200 families some 12 years after the last permit issuance was the result of hard work and collaboration among agencies under the current administration.

» 348 more homestead permits in 2 other Tinian areas in 8-10 months

The project was stalled for years over public safety, environmental, cultural, and financial concerns.

"What the homestead permit distribution means is that families can now build their dream homes at the subdivision. They have three years to do that. After DPL determines that they comply with the requirements in building their homes, these families can then get the deeds to the property. Things are looking up for Tinian," Hofschneider said.

The lieutenant governor, who hails from Tinian, urged lot owners to "do your best to comply with the requirements," given that land is limited on Tinian. Two-thirds of Tinian lands are under lease to the U.S. Department of Defense.

Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz, in his prepared remarks at the ceremony, said it's been "a long journey" for those who received their permits on Friday.

The mayor also gave credit to some of the many other people who contributed to making the homestead permit distribution possible, including some who already passed on.

Dela Cruz also praised DPL Secretary Pete A. Tenorio and DPL Tinian director Ray Cing and staff "for finally issuing the permits."

"To all of you homestead permit [holders], you may now legally enter the site of your future dream home. I encourage you to take the time to put your best efforts into building your lifelong dream of having your very own home," the Tinian mayor added.

Patricia Rasa, DPL Planning Division director, separately said Friday that besides the 189 homestead permits issued for the West San Jose Subdivision, there will be 137 more that will be distributed for the Kanadan Magpo subdivision and 211 for the Marpo Heights area "in about eight to 10 months."

The homestead permit distribution came five years since the fall 2009 drawing of lots and some 19 years since the project started.

The Tinian mayor said the long period it took to finally give the permits to deserving families had to do with addressing potential issues of World War II hazardous waste sites and the location of certain historical artifacts, among other things.

Each homestead lot has a size between 700 square meters and over 1,250 square meters.

SDLLC wants video of Buckingham escort be part of record for appeal

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Saipan Development LLC, the contractor of the voided power purchase agreement, wants the video clips when former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham was escorted by a group of policemen at the Saipan International Airport be made part of the record to be transmitted to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

SDLLC counsel William M. Fitzgerald said it would be appropriate under the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure for the U.S. District Court for the NMI to include the video clips that it viewed during SDLLC's argument or as part of the PowerPoint presentation.

In a motion to supplement record filed Thursday, Fitzgerald said the video clips showing Buckingham using a phalanx of policemen to prevent him from being served with legal process was crucial to SDLLC's argument that unfair media coverage created extreme prejudice against SDLLC.

"This prejudice was so pervasive among the community that it could logically be assumed that it even reached the Commonwealth Judiciary who are subject to popular vote to retain their positions on the bench," he said.

Without the video clips, the lawyer said, the Ninth Circuit will not see what truly occurred in the district court and that it appears that Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure was designed to allow the district court to rectify this situation.

Buckingham testified during his trial that upon his arrival at the Saipan International Airport in the early morning of Aug. 4, 2012, he saw then-KSPN2 reporter Tina Sablan and that there were police officers separating her from him.

SDLLC is appealing to the Ninth Circuit U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona's order that dismissed its lawsuit against the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. over the voided power purchase agreement. SDLLC wants Manglona's order reversed.

In the June 24 order, Manglona abstained from hearing SDLLC's lawsuit. She granted CUC's motion to dismiss the lawsuit with prejudice. Dismissal with prejudice means SDLLC cannot re-open the case.

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Delegation adds support for divert airfield on Tinian

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Tinian lawmakers are poised to adopt today a resolution strongly supporting and recommending the placement of a U.S. Air Force divert airfield on Tinian, adding their weight to the longstanding request by the CNMI to the U.S. Department of Defense.

Sen. Frank Borja (Ind-Tinian), chairman of the Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation, said they support and endorse the position of the CNMI government through Gov. Eloy S. Inos, as well as the people of Tinian and the Commonwealth Ports Authority, that the U.S. and the Air Force place the divert activities on Tinian "rather than Saipan."

Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation Resolution 18-12 is expected to be adopted during the delegation's session today.

Two-thirds or some 7,203 hectares of Tinian lands are leased to the U.S. military. Tinian lawmakers said the U.S. military should develop for its use and operations—including for divert activities and exercises—its leased lands on Tinian.

The National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2015, which passed the U.S. House of Representatives in May 2014, included Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan's (Ind-MP) amendment that expenditure of funds on divert airfield construction activities be "at any suitable location in the Northern Mariana Islands."

Tinian lawmakers echoed the governor's concern that placing the divert airfield on Saipan to occupy 13 hectares within and adjacent to the Saipan International Airport property is undesirable and would impede future commercial growth in the area.

They said the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, in its initial assessment of the draft environmental impact statement, rated the proposed plans for divert on Saipan as "undesirable" and the noise impacts on Saipan residents are "severe."

"The people of Tinian agrees with Governor Inos that placing the divert airfield on Tinian is in the best interest of both the Air Force and the CNMI in the long run. …The residents of Tinian strongly support and are prepared to welcome the development of military operations on Tinian," the lawmakers said.

There is also one other resolution that's still in committee that supports a divert airfield on Saipan. Rep. Ray Tebuteb's (Ind-Saipan) House Resolution 18-52, pre-filed in January this year, remains with the Committee on Foreign and Federal Relations.

The Air Force proposes to improve an existing airfield through the construction of facilities and infrastructure in the western Pacific to support one aircraft squadron and its approximately 500 support personnel for periodic exercises, emergency and humanitarian assistance.

Tebuteb said if the divert facilities are on Saipan, the project will require the lease of public lands resulting in income to the CNMI. However, if it's placed on Tinian, federal lease-back lands will be used, Tebuteb said.

8 Saipan beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged eight Saipan beaches and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

Affected sites are the San Roque School, Plumeria Hotel Beach, Aqua Resort Beach, DPW Channel Bridge, Tanapag Meeting Hall Beach, Hafa Adai Hotel, Garapan Fishing Dock, and the Garapan Beach.

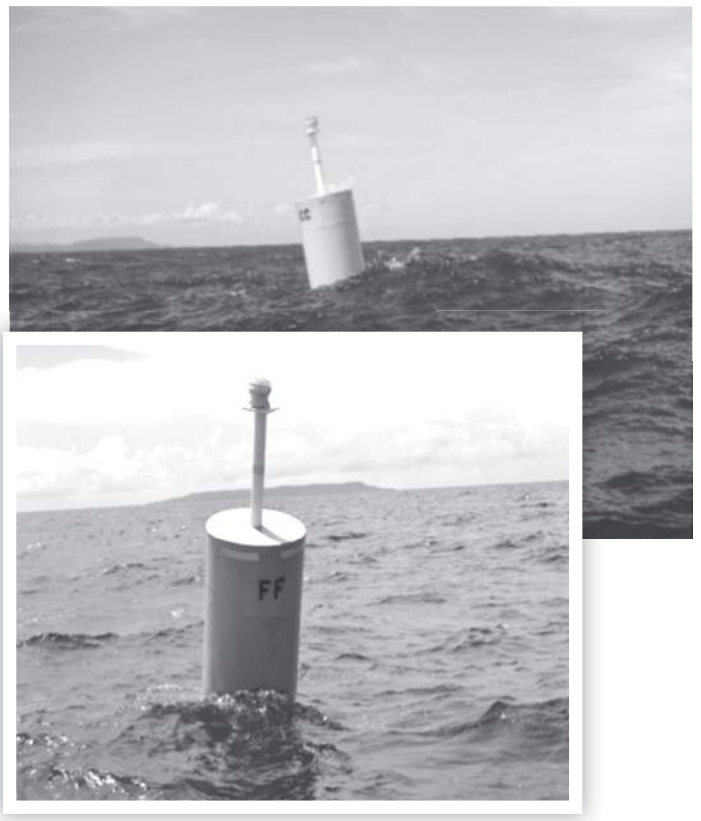
Samples collected from these locations contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

DEQ analyzes water samples collected from Saipan's recreational beaches and storm drainage every Tuesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

DFW deploys new fish aggregation devices for sport fisheries

The Division of Fish and Wildlife's Fisheries Research Section has just completed the deployment of 2 new Fish Aggregation Devices, also known as FADs at the following locations:

Latitude	Longitude	Buoy
14°59'45.8"N	145°27'25.3"E	FF
14°59'33.6"N	145°43'45.8"E	CC



What are FADs?

FADs may be considered as a structural oasis in the open ocean, providing a home or hiding place for bait fishes and a feeding ground for pelagic fishes such as skipjack tuna, yellowfin tuna, wahoo, and mahimahi.

Why FADs?

FADs provide an alternative method of fishing compared to shore-based fishing. Fish aggregating devices benefit fishermen by: maintaining a set location where target, pelagic fishes may be caught; minimizing the time spent searching for schools of fish or flocks of birds; reducing fuel consumption when fishing; reducing cost to fishermen; and by obtaining information on fish and FAD interactions. FADs also reduce fishing pressure on reef fishes.

The CNMI Division of Fish & Wildlife's FAD program is ongoing and will be replacing, maintaining, and adding more FADs across the CNMI on a yearly basis, and is funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Dingell-Johnson Sportfish Restoration Grant. ***(DFW)***

Jurors enter 2nd week of deliberations in Roberto's trial

The 12 jurors are expected to resume their deliberations today, Monday, in the case against Raymond B. Roberto, a 41-year-old man who is on trial for three counts of enticing three minors to engage in prostitution and one count of witness tampering.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge David A. Wiseman ordered the jurors on Wednesday to return today at 8am to continue their deliberations.

Wiseman was assigned to the case as U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona, who presided over the trial, is off-island, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

Before excusing the jurors, Wiseman gave instructions to the jurors and read them a portion of the final jury instructions.

The jurors began deliberating last Sept. 15.

Roberto is a former acting director of the Division of Fish and Wildlife. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

US

From Page 2

is not easy and can require pursuing many different paths at the same time," Sablan said.

Both the CNMI immigration policies and the insular energy provisions of H.R. 83 are also parts of Sablan's omnibus territories bill or H.R. 2200, and its Senate companion, S.1237, which passed the Senate on June 18.

The CNMI immigration policies are also included in Sablan's H.R. 4296, which was ordered reported by the U.S. House Natural Resources Committee on May 29.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos has also asked U.S. House Speaker John Boehner in a July letter to prioritize and pass H.R. 4296.

If none of these bills dealing with CNMI immigration policies pass Congress and are signed into law by Dec. 31, 2014, the CNMI will have to start, among other things, accepting asylum applications in 2015, which officials and businesses said would hurt the still fragile tourism industry and could catch China's ire.

This also means foreign investors with E2-C visas will have to either convert to another U.S. investor status or close shop. Besides the decrease in economic activities, hundreds of jobs are also expected to be lost when this happens.

Sablan, like U.S. House Natural Resources Committee chairman Doc Hastings (R-Wa), has been "cautiously optimistic" about the passage of any of these bills on CNMI immigration policies.

But last year, even with limited session days, a bill that would delay anew a 50-cent minimum wage increase in the CNMI for 2013 passed the U.S. House. Sablan earlier said the same effort would be exerted this year for bills with CNMI immigration policies.

Mineral revenues

In other news, the U.S. House passed last week H.R. 2, which would permit offshore mineral and energy development in the exclusive economic zone around the CNMI and revenue-sharing for the Commonwealth government.

Sablan said H.R. 2, which defines the CNMI as a coastal state under the Outer Continental Shelf Act, is "a next step in expanding our rights in the waters around our islands."

The first step was gaining ownership of near-shore lands and waters with the enactment of Public Law 113-34 exactly a year ago last week.

But at present, there is no legal means to lease areas beyond that and into the exclusive economic zone for mineral and energy exploration and development.

H.R.2, which now goes to the Senate, gives authority to Interior secretary to enter into leases, subject to strict environmental requirements, and to share the revenues with any nearby insular area.

This is a similar arrangement as for coastal states, such as California and Louisiana, Sablan said.

AUGUST

From Page 1

two major celebrities who are very popular in China and who had a surprise wedding on the beach at the Hafadai Beach Hotel. With live reports on a huge number of Chinese social media, the NMI is now soaring as one of most attractive wedding and honeymoon destinations for Chinese couples.

Arrivals from Japan fell 30 percent to 12,362 visitors in August due to the 37.4-percent decline in airlift. Delta Air Lines suspended its night flight for eight days in August. Asiana Airlines also reduced its Narita/Saipan service from 4,640 seats to 3,078 and Kansai/Saipan service from 5,675 seats to 2,000. To rebuild the Japan market, the MVA is developing a major launch in Japan next month of the NMI as the Flower Islands and for this purpose, has secured major unpaid television features including a nationwide one-hour TV program that will generate $1.8 million in media value.

Arrivals from Korea dropped 21 percent in August to 10,618 visitors. In the same month last year, Asiana had an extra flight in August from Incheon to Saipan. Asiana also reduced its flights from Busan from four to two flights weekly compared with the same month last year. The MVA has rolled out a special tourism ambassador project with famous Korean pop idol group SISTAR. With this celebrity marketing effort, the MVA will conduct various consumer promotions and events utilizing the power of SISTAR's celebrity.

Arrivals from Russia fell by 19 percent to 675 visitors in August, the first month of decline in the market this fiscal year With the suspension of AVIACHARTER flights from Vladivostok and Khabarovsk to Saipan effective Aug. 17, the MVA is now working with other airline partners and with leading travel agencies to restore direct non-stop flight service from Russia to the NMI, The MVA is also working closely with Asiana on joint promotions to boost travel from East Russia on one-stop flights to the NMI via Seoul.

Economic highlights

The Japanese government maintained its positive stance on the economy in its monthly report for August, while also expressing some concern over the lingering effects of the consumption tax hike introduced in April. Looking ahead, the economy is expected to recover but if the adverse effects of the consumption tax hike linger for an extended period, it could become a risk factor for economic growth. The yen hovered around 103 to the U.S. dollar.

South Korea's consumer price index remains stable and the economy added fewer jobs in June than it did in May, an increase of 398,000 jobs year-on-year. The economic recovery is stagnating and industry indicators have not yet rebounded from April and May slowdown. The won/dollar exchange rate fell 27.62 over the past month to close at 995.98 won against the U.S. dollar.

The International Monetary Fund predicts the Chinese economy will grow about 7.5 percent this year on the back of implemented reforms it said would help the country achieve a more balanced and inclusive growth. It estimated the 2015 result would show an increase of 7.1 percent. The value of the Chinese currency renminbi, or the yuan, strengthened by 10 basis points to 6.1658 against the U.S. dollar, according to the China Foreign Exchange Trading System.

The Russian Ministry of Economic Development has lowered its forecast of GDP growth rate from 2 percent to 1 percent for 2015. The forecasted GDP rate for 2014 has remained unchanged (0.5 percent) due to the imposed sanctions against Russia. The embargo on products from the USA, Canada, Australia, and Europe imposed by the Russian government as its answer to the sanctions against Russia, will trigger inflation in Russia to increase faster than the previous prediction of 7 percent. ***(MVA)***

DENNIS B. CHAN

A member of Guam's Army National Guard, Company A, 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry scans the perimeter in an island seizure exercise on Tinian on Sept. 20 during Valiant Shield 2014.

RELATED NEWS
Infantry Marines 'seize' Tinian in Valiant Shield exercise. PAGE 16

Marines, Guardsmen duel in pulse-pounding exercise to seize Tinian

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

TINIAN—The two MV-22 Ospreys were spotted about 10am Saturday morning.

They moved over the low sky and tree line, these tilt-rotor wonders, holding our attention and ending the wait.

Media could not get as close as we wanted, as we were warned of the chunks of gravel that could fly into our cameras from the Ospreys' powerful rotors.

Nevertheless, we started running toward them once they landed.

They didn't stay long, however, as the U.S. infantry Marines they dropped slipped out quickly onto the runway.

Efforts to catch the Marines emerging from the jungle later also proved unsuccessful.

Instead, media joined Guam's Army National Guard—the "bad guys"—of this exercise at their objective: an abandoned and crumbling Japanese administration building loaded with wasp nests.

There they perched, on their third day outdoors waiting, with some men stationed high on the second floor, their guns and eyes fixed on the woodline around them.

Some of the other Guardsmen lay on the grass and slopes behind the building, barely saying a word, guns mounted.

"We also have observation posts pushed out in each direction to give us an eye and early warning, so if they come across the enemy they will open fire," said Sgt. First Class Edward Cruz.

He said they have all areas covered—"north, east, south, west,"—in a 360-angle for their defense of the building.

Soon, the glare and relative calm of that hot Saturday morning were shattered by loud and abrupt shots fired deep in the jungle surrounding the building.

Guys locked in, guns were pointed, and shouts along the line were yelled as lungs tightened with anticipation.

Then a white tourist bus showed up from around a side trail, approaching the building. It was told to turn around.

Soon after, amid fire, two members of the advance observation guard came running out the jungle, lugging their guns and yelling, with the paint on their faces smeared with sweat.

The Marines were coming, it seemed all at once, through the jungle to flank the building.

An adrenaline pounding, staccato burst of gunfire—riotous and deafening through my earplugs—began.

Defenses consolidated at the rear of the building, where the Marines began to emerge from the jungle.

I, however, couldn't see the "enemy" approach. The jungle denied visibility.

Yet the Guardsmen were firing, and firing with abandon, with smoke rolling off one man's rifle languidly, sensually, like smoke coming off one's lips after a good, clean drag on a cigarette.

I'm pretty sure over a thousand rounds were fired that morning.

As they were trained, the Guardsmen slipped to the second floor, after holding down fire on the advancing enemy.

They waited from atop the stairs, rifles screaming fire from above.

The Marines came through anyway.

"Bang-bang-bang," I heard one say, climbing the stairs.

It was over soon.

Pretty intense for what you call "practice," I thought.

For Capt. Phillipe Rigaud, who led the Marines that day, the low visibility caused by the jungle was part of the plan.

He said he expected to be heard but not necessarily spotted until both Guardsmen and Marines were locked in a "really close fight."

"We knew we were going to take some risk on them being able to hear us, but we knew we were able to mask our forces, which we did, so everybody came out at once instead of piecemealing at one time," he said.

On the terrain he just led his men through, he said Tinian is comparatively flat compared to Hawaii or Okinawa but the temperature is the same and the jungles are similar.

For the Guam Army National Guard, the chance to train with other services, which Valiant Shield provides, is valuable.

"It's a good operation. It gives us a chance to work with our fellow service members, and get to see how they conduct their mission and we can see how conducts ours, and get tips from each other," Cruz said.

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USCIS in settlement talks with Bangladeshi widower

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. government has entered into settlement negotiations with a Bangladeshi widower of a U.S. citizen wife who sued over the filing of a case for his removal or deportation.

Obaydul Hoque Bhuiyan has reportedly been residing in the CNMI for 18 years now. His U.S. citizen wife died less than three years after their marriage.

Bhuiyan, through counsel Joseph E. Horey, and U.S. Department of Justice Office of Immigration Litigation trial attorney Sarah L. Vuong, as counsel for the U.S. government, have notified the U.S. District Court for the NMI that they are working to resolve the case without court involvement.

Vuong said U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has agreed to reopen and renew Bhuiyan's Form I-360 petition for Amerasian, widower, or special immigrant application.

Should USCIS deny the petition, Bhuiyan can seek administrative review before the Board of Immigration Appeals.

Vuong and Horey both asked the court to vacate the U.S. government's response deadline to provide USCIS time to adjudicate Bhuiyan's reopened Form I-360 petition.

The lawyers said they will also explore other avenues of potential relief associated with the reopened Form I-360.

They agreed to file a joint status report by Dec. 3, 2014, updating the court of their progress.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona granted the parties' request.

In his lawsuit filed in June, Bhuiyan asked the federal court to issue an order declaring that he has been lawfully present in the CNMI since Nov. 28, 2009, when federalization of local immigration took effect.

Bhuiyan asked the court to issue a mandatory injunction requiring the U.S. government to immediately grant him humanitarian parole-in-place in the CNMI. He also wants the court to require the U.S. government to entertain any application that may be made for him for a CW-1 permit, or any other visa, permit, status or other relief, without requiring him to depart the CNMI.

Horey stated in the complaint that Bhuiyan first came to the CNMI from Bangladesh in 1996 and has lived in the CNMI since then.

On March 5, 2004, Bhuiyan married Ana Atalig, also known as Ana Atalig Torres, a U.S. citizen. After his marriage, Bhuiyan applied for and was issued an immediate relative permit by the CNMI government.

Bhuiyan renewed his IR permit in 2005 and 2006.

Horey said that, on July 7, 2006, some two years and three months after her marriage to Bhuiyan, Atalig died. After Atalig's death, Bhuiyan renewed his IR permit in 2007, 2008, and 2009.

On Sept. 27, 2011, USCIS approved Bhuiyan's Form I-360. He then filed Form I-485 as the final step for an alien in the U.S. to adjust status to that of lawful permanent resident.

In 2012, Horey said the U.S. government revoked Bhuiyan's previously approved Form I-360, for the reason that he and his wife had been married for longer than two years at the time of her death.

USCIS told Bhuiyan that his Form I-360 had been "inadvertently approved."

Bhuiyan's Form I-485 was denied, due to the prior revocation of his Form I-360. Bhuiyan applied for humanitarian parole in place, which was denied.

On March 12, 2013, Bhuiyan was issued a notice to appear for removal proceedings, on the ground that he was "an immigrant not in possession of a valid unexpired immigrant visa."

Horey said that, on May 8, 2013, removal proceedings against Bhuiyan were administratively closed, but could be reopened at any time.

Silver Explorer to visit Pagan

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The *Silver Explorer* expedition cruise ship is scheduled to visit Pagan on Sep. 28 as well as Saipan and Tinian the next day as part of the concluding Marianas leg of a tour that included visits to various Japanese volcanic islands.

According to *Silver Explorer,* visitors will explore one of the Pagan's lava flows after heading down a World War II-era Japanese runway featuring abandoned bunkers and stranded warplanes.

They will also hike up one of the island's ridges to view two of its scenic lakes.

Jerome Aldan of Northern Island's Mayor's Office said the tour will be a "historic visit" to Pagan.

According to him, 150 tourists are expected to visit the island.

He said that next year, along with partners such Pacific Development, Inc., Inchcape Shipping, and Marianas Visitor's Authority, they are planning to have as many as four cruise visits to the island next year.

"This is just the beginning," he said.

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3 As of 09/01/14, the Annual Percentage Yield (APY) for a personal Priority Banking Checking account is 0.02% for Level 2 and 0.04% for Level 3. Rates may change after account opening and fees could reduce account earnings. The minimum deposit to open an account and obtain an umbrella is $100 for Priority Banking Levels 1 and 2, and $1,000 for Level 3. You will receive the umbrella as a gift when you mention this offer at the First Hawaiian Bank branch and open or convert to a new personal Priority Banking Checking account. Limit: One umbrella per customer or account. We reserve the right to substitute an item of similar value. Offer expires 10/31/14, or when supplies are exhausted. Please see a Priority Banking Checking Account Agreement for specific terms and conditions. Benefits may be lost if the account is closed or converted to another type of account. These offers and benefits cannot be combined with any other discounts, offers or promotions.

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
P.O. Box 502149, Saipan MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 • Fax: (670) 235-7147
Email: administration@cda.gov.mp • website: www.cda.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
2014-CDA-11-ITB

CLOSING DATE: Wednesday, October 1, 2014 TIME: 10:00 am

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Copies of the Scope of Work may be obtained at the Commonwealth Development Authority office, 2nd Floor CDA Bldg. in Oleai, Saipan during regular working hours or by facsimile request to 235-7147.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/MANUEL A. SABLAN
Executive Director

/s/HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
P.O. BOX 501370
SAIPAN, MP 96950

PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with the "Open Government Act", the Public School System State Board of Education, through their Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC), is hereby serving notice to the general public that it will hold its ICC meeting on Thursday, September 25, 2014, 8:00 am to 11:00 am, at the Board of Education (BOE) Conference Room. This meeting is open to the public; interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

I. Call to Order
   a. Roll Call
   b. Presence of a Quorum
   c. Adoption of Agenda
   d. Adoption of Minutes
II. Coordinators Reports
   a. Coordinator Update
   b. APR Target
III. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting, but require accessibility such as large print, sign language or interpreter, must call 237-3029/19. Several days' notice is necessary to allow organizers ample time to make necessary arrangements.

/s/ Margaret Aldan
Chairwoman

/s/ Robin L. Palacios
Interim Coordinator,
Early Intervention Program

Paid for by IDEA, Part B Funds.

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Petitioners

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION FOR ADOPTION OF:

T.J.B.A.,

A Minor Child

By: Vicente S. Ada and Linda B. Ada

FCD-AD Civil Action No. 14-0378

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR ADOPTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Court shall hear the above entitled matter on this 29th day of September, 2014, at 1:30 p.m. on the Petitioners Petition for Adoption in the above captioned matter.

Dated this 3rd day or September, 2014.

/s/ CLERK OF COURT

NMC seeks to tie up with private firm for residence hall

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College is seeking to partner with private developers or investors to build a new residence hall and student center.

According to a recent "request for interest," the college described the student housing projects as "a contemporary full service student residence hall."

The student center is estimated to be 27,000 square feet, with preliminary design specifications already set by the college.

The size and design for the residence hall has yet to be determined.

NMC wants a private-public partnership with an interested group to fund and develop the two projects long-term.

The partnership entails that developers or investors come up with an architecture and engineering design for the facilities on campus or around the area, as well as cost estimates for these projects.

Developers or investors would finance, build these projects, and then operate and maintain them.

Under this arrangement, NMC noted that its "sole investment and commitment" would be to identify and make available for use and occupancy a property owned by the college.

The developer and NMC would move forward under mutually agreed terms for construction, management, and operation, according to the RFI.

One of the college's minimum requirements is for the developer to have experience with "alternative energy and efficient designs," as well as project experience particular to the CNMI.

The college's move toward private financing, construction, and management of student housing follows a recent trend nationwide, with the University of Kentucky, Montclair State University in New Jersey, and Portland State University, among others, who have gone forward or are considering private means over pubic funds to develop housing, according to a report this year from *The New York Times*.

For their other capital improvement efforts, NMC regent William Torres disclosed that the college has been "notified of receipt of close to $270,000 in new money" from a meeting last month with Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kai'aina in Washington, D.C.

Torres noted that the college would soon submit its solar energy and reverse osmosis proposals to the Office of Insular Affairs as well.

Guam Army Nat'l Guard training to take place

The Guam Army National Guard's will hold monthly training assembly or drill, on Sept. 26, 27, and 28.

All Army Guard training events had been postponed earlier this month due to a budgetary shortfall nationwide; however, Congress recently approved the reprogramming of funds to support the scheduled monthly training of soldiers.

"We are pleased that we can execute this training opportunity to ensure that our soldiers remain ready and trained to respond to missions at home and abroad," said Maj. Gen. Benny M. Paulino, The Adjutant General for the Guam National Guard.

This rescheduled drill date does not affect airmen as members of the Guam Air National Guard already held monthly training earlier this month.

"As always, we ask for the continued support of our employers in allowing their employee-soldiers to attend this rescheduled monthly unit training assembly on Sept. 26, 27, and 28," said Paulino.

Soldiers should contact their respective units should they have any questions, comments or concerns. ***(GUANG)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

KagES PTSA meeting set

There will be a PTSA meeting on Sept. 29 at the Kagman Elementary School cafeteria starting at 6pm. Your attendance is greatly appreciated. Please remember that we need a quorum of 50 parents to hold the meeting. ***(PR)***

John Gonzales LIVE show replay

The *John Gonzales LIVE* show last Wednesday, which featured the topic "Oral Cancer - Non-Communicable Disease" and "Let's Move Marianas Expo 2014," will be replayed today, Sept. 22, and Tuesday, Sept. 23, 2014, from 6:30pm to 7:30pm on TV Channel 14. The show also rebroadcasts on www.betelnutradio.com. The guest speakers are Commonwealth Cancer Association's Juan L. Babauta, some dentists, and a testimonial from a family member, Mami Ikeda. ***(PR)***

Military training at Warning Area 517

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training at an extended Warning Area 517 during the following times:

- Sept. 22 from 8am to noon
- Sept. 23 from 8am to noon

The general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear of the area during the times and date indicated. This will affect fishing in the vicinity. ***(PR)***

Little League Baseball membership meeting

The Saipan Little League Baseball, Inc. is inviting all managers, coaches, parents, and interested individuals for the general membership meeting to elect new board members for the 2015-2016 Little League Season. The meeting will be held on Oct. 4, 2014, starting at 9am, at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium pavilion. Please mark your calendar and be there. ***(PR)***

Diabetes coalition set membership meeting

The Commonwealth Diabetes Coalition is scheduling their general membership meeting on Friday, Oct. 3, 2014, at the Office on Aging conference room from 9:30am to 11:30am. All CDC members as well as interested individuals, organizations, partner agencies from government and non-government, and faith-based organizations are invited to attend this meeting. For more information about the scheduled CDC meeting, contact Ayuda Network, Inc. at 234-7469 or via email at ayudanet1@ayuda-cnmi.org. ***(Ayuda)***

NMDC schedule of events

The Northern Marianas Descent Corp. has scheduled the following events:

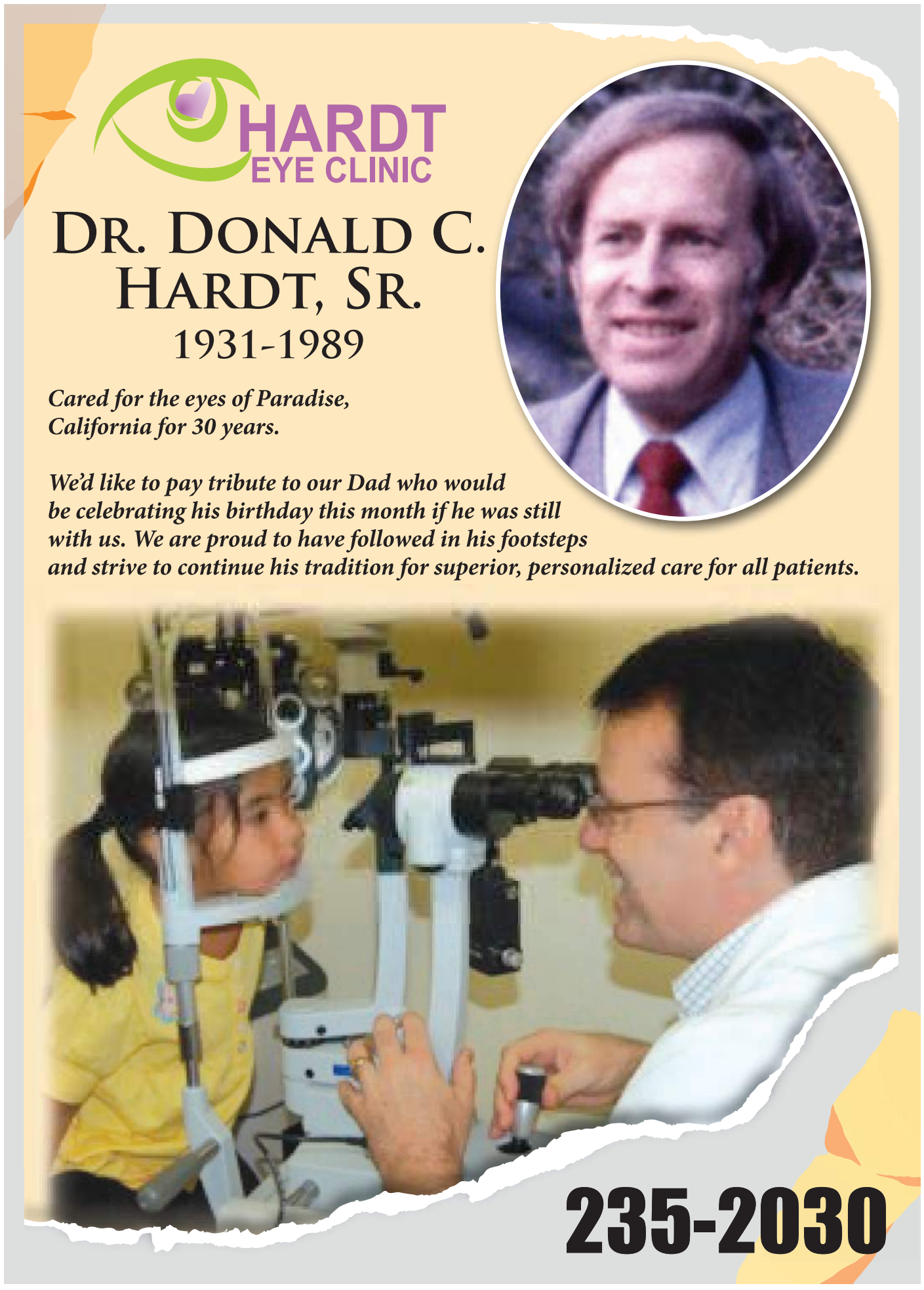
- NMDC-hosted Delegate Candidates' Forum on Friday, Sept. 26, starting at 6pm at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.
- NMDC-hosted 1st Marianas Indigenous Conference on Monday and Tuesday, Sept. 29 and 30, from 7:30am to 4:30pm, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe
- NMDC-hosted CNMI Gubernatorial Candidates Forum on Friday, Oct. 10, starting at 6pm at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe. ***(NMDC)***

CCA board meeting tomorrow

The Commonwealth Cancer Association's board of directors will be holding its regular meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 23, 2014, at 3pm at the CCA conference room. Agenda includes reports from the president and program updates. All board meetings are open to the public. For more information, contact the CCA at 682-0050 or email at cca@cca-marianas.org. ***(CCA)***

Survivors, caregivers support meeting on Sept. 25

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the next Commonwealth Cancer Association monthly support meeting on Thursday, Sept. 25, starting at 5:30pm at the Chamolinian Room of the Hyatt Regency Saipan. To RSVP or for more information, call the CCA at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com or cca@cca-marianas.org. ***(CCA)***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235-2030

Babauta-Torres calls for lease renewal of Mariana Resort

Saipan casino license holder Best Sunshine International, Ltd. made its interest known this month to the Department of Public Lands in its bid to take over the Mariana Resort and Spa when its lease expires four years from now in 2018.

The more than $30-million hotel resort development and related infrastructure was financed, developed, and is presently occupied by a Japanese private interest.

The CNMI government has reportedly halted all ongoing negotiations with Mariana Resort when it was already close to reaching an agreement in renewing the public land lease held by the Japanese company Kan Pacific.

Mariana Resort is the oldest Japanese hotel investment on Saipan, with Kan Pacific having operated this investment here for 36 years. Mariana Resort remains one of the few Japanese-held investments on Saipan.

Mariana Resort employs over 80 local employees and provides tourism activities that are unique to the CNMI, such as horse riding and go-kart racing. The customers of Mariana Resort are mostly Japanese.

At its recent fundraising dinner held at Mariana Resort earlier in the month, Juan N. Babauta said, "Mariana Resort is critical for our tourism industry because the number of Japanese tourists is critical to ensure continuity of flights with direct service to Tokyo and elsewhere in Japan. The Babauta-Torres team appreciates and is grateful for the commitments and efforts of Mariana Resort in supporting our tourism industry over the last 36 years."

A Babauta-Torres administration promises to treat all existing public land lessors fairly. "We will not allow any newcomer to trample, choke, or run over functioning businesses. Instead, we will facilitate and provide assistance to all newcomers, including Best Sunshine International, to identify suitable sites. The long-term interest of the Commonwealth is to establish and harness a trusting relationship with its business partners and not to derail such business relationship and confidence."

The Babauta-Torres team remains confident that Best Sunshine International, with DPL's guidance, can and will find suitable and sufficient public land for an integrated casino resort, other than the site leased by Mariana Resort in Marpi.

"Accommodating Best Sunshine and continuing Mariana Resort is a win-win proposition and consistent with our platform over our commitment to work together with existing hotels and resorts to improve our tourism economy in the Commonwealth, Guam, and Micronesia, said former senator Juan S. Torres, candidate for lieutenant governor. ***(PR)***

Hagel: ISIL strategy will not impact Asia-Pacific pivot

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) attended Friday a hearing of the House Armed Services Committee to discuss the Obama administration's strategy for the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant , or ISIL. The congresswoman applauded the President for his four-point strategy to defeat ISIL. She underscored the importance of this week's debate on the authorization of force against ISIL. She indicated that ISIL could become a direct threat to the United States or our allies in Europe and that we must make efforts to avoid that threat from becoming immediate. Bordallo also indicated that learning from the lessons of previous conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan indicates that we cannot leave a power vacuum that would further degrade the security situation. As such, she believes it is more important than ever that to form coalitions and bring in partners when taking on threats of this nature. There is a growing frustration by the seeming lack of interest by allies in the region to address their own immediate security concerns.

During the hearing, Bordallo also asked Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel about the administration's continued commitment to the rebalance strategy in light of efforts to degrade and destroy ISIL. Hagel assured Bordallo that the administration remains committed to the rebalance strategy and that operations in the Middle East will not detract from this effort.

Said Hagel: "Our efforts against ISIL will not affect our commitment to Asia- Pacific, as the President has made very clear. That commitment, that rebalancing will continue. And I think we have, over the last couple of years, in particular, have made great progress as we have enhanced our relationships and partnerships in your part of the world. And very much appreciate Guam's role in—in all of this because you, you are a key, key area, and the people that you represent, I want to also thank for their hospitality to all of our men and women who serve there."

"I appreciate Secretary Hagel's assurance of the Administration's continued commitment to the rebalance strategy," said Bordallo. "We have taken significant steps forward on this effort over the last several years, and there are many key provisions in this year's NDAA that will build on this progress. As our nation works with a global coalition to degrade and defeat ISIL, I appreciate that our administration will also remain focused on ensuring stability and security in the Asia-Pacific region." ***(PR)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Belated happy 4th birthday to our handsome, smart, little rascal, Eli Zachary T. Escota! Love: Daddy, Mommy, Codie, Caine, Papa, and Mama. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

UOG workshop will examine potential for regional aquaculture investment

Aquaculture is gaining popularity across the world as a sustainable way to produce fish and other aquatic species. As wild fishery populations dwindle, this technology has the potential to facilitate economic expansion and establish effective, environmentally conscious means of producing food locally with consistent yields. While the Western Pacific Islands are fortunate to have ideal conditions for aquaculture, there are only a handful of farms in the region; an upcoming meeting at the University of Guam hopes to change this.

On Monday, Oct. 8, from 1pm to 5pm, the Center for Tropical and Subtropical Aquaculture, together with the University of Guam and the College of Micronesia, will host a workshop to solicit inputs on aquaculture opportunities in Guam and the Western Pacific region. We would like to invite local farmers, entrepreneurs, or other interested parties to attend this free half-day event to share their visions for a robust local aquaculture industry.

» Local entrepreneurs, farmers, and other interested parties invited to participate!

The workshop is part of a three-day meeting "Partnership for Success: Strategic Planning for Aquaculture Development in the Western Pacific Islands," and will be led by CTSA executive director Dr. Cheng-Sheng Lee, UOG College of Agriculture dean Dr. Lee Yudin, and College of Micronesia dean Dr. Singeru Singeo.

The purpose of the workshop is to bring together researchers, government officers, and other industry stakeholders to identify opportunities for aquaculture development in the region, with an overall goal of generating revenue for local economies. At a subsequent closed meeting, researchers will develop an action plan to enhance collaborative efforts in the region to overcome roadblocks for sustainable aquaculture.

Aquaculture is the farming of aquatic organisms such as fish, shellfish, and even plants. When compared with the worldwide aquaculture industry, the Pacific Region sector is slow growing. In many other regions of the world, aquaculture has been incorporated substantially into food production schemes as policy makers recognize the need for a sustainable source of protein to meet the demands of growing populations and declining wild stocks of fish.

CTSA is funded by the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. The center's mission is to support aquaculture research, development, demonstration, and extension education to enhance viable and profitable U.S. aquaculture. For more information, visit www.ctsa.org or contact Meredith Brooks mbrooks@ctsa.org. ***(UOG)***

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that the Special Meeting of the Board is scheduled on **Thursday, September 25, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. at the NMHC's Conference Room, Garapan, Saipan**. The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

I. PRELIMARY MATTERS
a. Call to Order
b. Roll Call
c. Adoption of Agenda
d. Adoption of Minutes
i. September 10, 2014 Special Board Meeting Minutes

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. NEW BUSINESS
a. Loan Review & Approval

IV. OLD BUSINESS
a. Mortgage Credit Division
i. HOME Policies and Procedures
ii. Loan Modification

V. LEGAL COUNSEL'S PENDING/ONGOING REPORT

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

VII. OTHER MATTERS

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/MARCIE M. TOMOKANE
Chairwoman of the Board

Northern Marianas College
Procurement & Property Management Office
P.O. Box 501250 CK, Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.
Tel: (670) 234-5498 ext. 6823/24 Fax: (670) 235-7601

INVITATION FOR BIDS

NMC IFB 14-002
NMC Air-Conditioning Project

Northern Marianas College is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the procurement and installation of high efficiency air–conditioning units for the As Terlaje Campus.

Specifications and Scope of Work packages may be picked up at the NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, commencing Monday, September 15, 2014 between the hours of 8:30-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m., As Terlaje Campus, Saipan.

A mandatory pre-bid meeting and site inspection for interested person, firms and corporation will be held on September 24, 2014 at 9:00am, NMC Procurement Management Office, Bldg L, 2nd floor, conference room.

This procurement is 100% Federally Funded made available from the Office of Insular Affairs, Empowering Insular Communities Program.

In accordance with Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, Local Preference is not available to local businesses for this procurement.

Bid Packages are due no later than 10:00 a.m., October 16, 2014, at Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, Saipan, MP 96950
For Bidders located outside of the CNMI: you may request a copy of the IFB via fax (670) 235-7601 or email to Anita Camacho (anita.camacho@marianas.edu).

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. NMC reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids for any reason and waive any defect in said bids, or cancel in part or its entirety this IFB, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College.

All costs incurred by the proposer to prepare a response to this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the proposer. All submittals shall become the property of NMC.

Approved by the following:

/s/ Anita Camacho
NMC Procurement Manager

/s/ David J. Attao
Dean of Administration and
Resource Development

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NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Commonwealth Ports Authority hereby gives notice that a Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Thursday, September 25, 2014, at 10:00 a.m. in the CPA Conference Room, Second Floor of the Captain George Fleming Building, at the Port of Saipan.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes (August 29, 2014)

II. CORRESPONDENCES

III. COMMITTEE REPORTS
1. Financial Affairs Committee
2. Airport Facilities Committee
3. Seaport Facilities Committee
4. Personnel Affairs Committee
5. Ad-hoc Committee: Saipan Airport Master Concession
6. Appeals Ad-hoc Committee

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

V. OLD BUSINESS
None.

VI. NEW BUSINESS
1. Saipan Airport Master Concession:
a. Discussion on Ricondo Report/Analysis
b. Next action – Public Hearing or further discussion
c. Other issues.
2. TIA Terminal Improvements-BTS Facility and Wastewater System projects
3. Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport's Terminal Roof Leaks – Approval of A/E design services
4. Amendment to Insurance Coverage Requirements
5. FY2015 Budget
6. Personnel matters: Employment contract renewals

VII. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION/Legal Counsel Report

X. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/ JOSE R. LIFOIFOI
Chairman, Board of Directors
September 19, 2014

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BEST SUNSHINE INTERNATIONAL

www.bestsunshineint.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Best Sunshine is committed to develop Saipan's first Integrated Resort, which includes hotels, retail shops, restaurants, spa & wellness, health & aesthetics tourism, conference, casino and themed entertainment.
We would like to invite energetic professionals to join our project development office in Saipan.

1. Architect
2. Project Manager
3. Mechanical Engineer
4. Electrical Engineer

Skills and Qualifications:
For posts 1,2,3,4, you should be a college graduate and have worked in the related professional field for over 10 years. You should have completed some buildings in Saipan or Guam, in the capacity as client representative, architect, engineer, design consultant or contractor.

5. Project Assistant

Skills and Qualifications:
College graduate with 5 years working experience in an administrative role, preferably in property development or property management. Computer literate and excellent skills on power point and word are needed.

Salary is commensurate with experience and education. Good salary package and an excellent opportunity for you to develop our exciting Integrated Resort project. Please email your detailed resume to hr@bestsunshineint.com. Also, for job description, application form and more information, please email: hr@bestsunshineint.com. Background check may be required before employment.

Thank you, Si Yu'os Ma'ase and Olomwaay for your interest in Best Sunshine!

BEST SUNSHINE International

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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EDITORIAL

Forget the rosy statistics: More are poor, the rest are hurting

The U.S. Census released figures this week that show that the national poverty rate has decreased for the first time since 2006.

Don't rush to plan a victory parade, though. The percentage of people in poverty has dropped slightly, but the implications are more mathematical than practical: Median household income has remained the same, and the number of those in poverty in 2013—45.3 million—is about the same as the year before.

So, our economic well-being as a country is still a troubled story. It's further complicated by the outdated methods for officially measuring poverty, which haven't changed since they were first developed in the 1960s.

Those standards were based primarily on food costs, which were a larger percentage of income. Fifty years later, housing and health costs have risen dramatically. To reflect this, a new Supplemental Poverty Measure was developed to more accurately capture current expenses as well as to account for public assistance received by families.

But therein lies more bad news: Using the SPM bumps up the poverty figure even higher. According to a recent census report, using the supplemental measure increased the number of people in poverty by 2.7 million in 2012.

More important than quantifying the number of people in poverty, though, is figuring out what we do with the information. U.S. Rep. Paul Ryan of Wisconsin has his ideas. We tend to be more supportive of remedies outlined by organizations like the Center for American Progress. CAP has outlined 10 solutions to reducing poverty, including increasing the earned income tax credit for childless workers, providing paid sick days, making investments that create jobs and raising the minimum wage. If the minimum wage in the late 1960s were indexed to inflation, the rate today would be $10.68 an hour, not $7.25.

In fact, we believe a more effective conversation about the economic well-being of all of us, not just the poor, should focus on wages. The simple fact is that wages have stagnated for more than a decade. According to the Economic Policy Institute, from 2007 to 2012, wages fell for the entire bottom 70 percent of the wage distribution, despite the fact that productivity grew by nearly 8 percent. Only the top 5 percent of earners saw higher wages. In other words, most of us are working harder, for less money.

How much harder? EPI's "The State of Working America" found that between 1979 and 2007, the average worker saw an annual increase of 181 work hours a year—which translates into 4.5 additional weeks a year.

The recent protests by fast-food workers have tapped into larger frustrations about the state of working America. Also, people now understand that working people who aren't paid enough to support their families rely on the rest of us in the form of government help like food stamps and Medicaid.

Maybe the best solution for reducing poverty is to understand that if we continue to insist on buying everything as cheaply as possible, we're only going to continue to shortchange ourselves—in more outsourced jobs, grueling hours and low wages.

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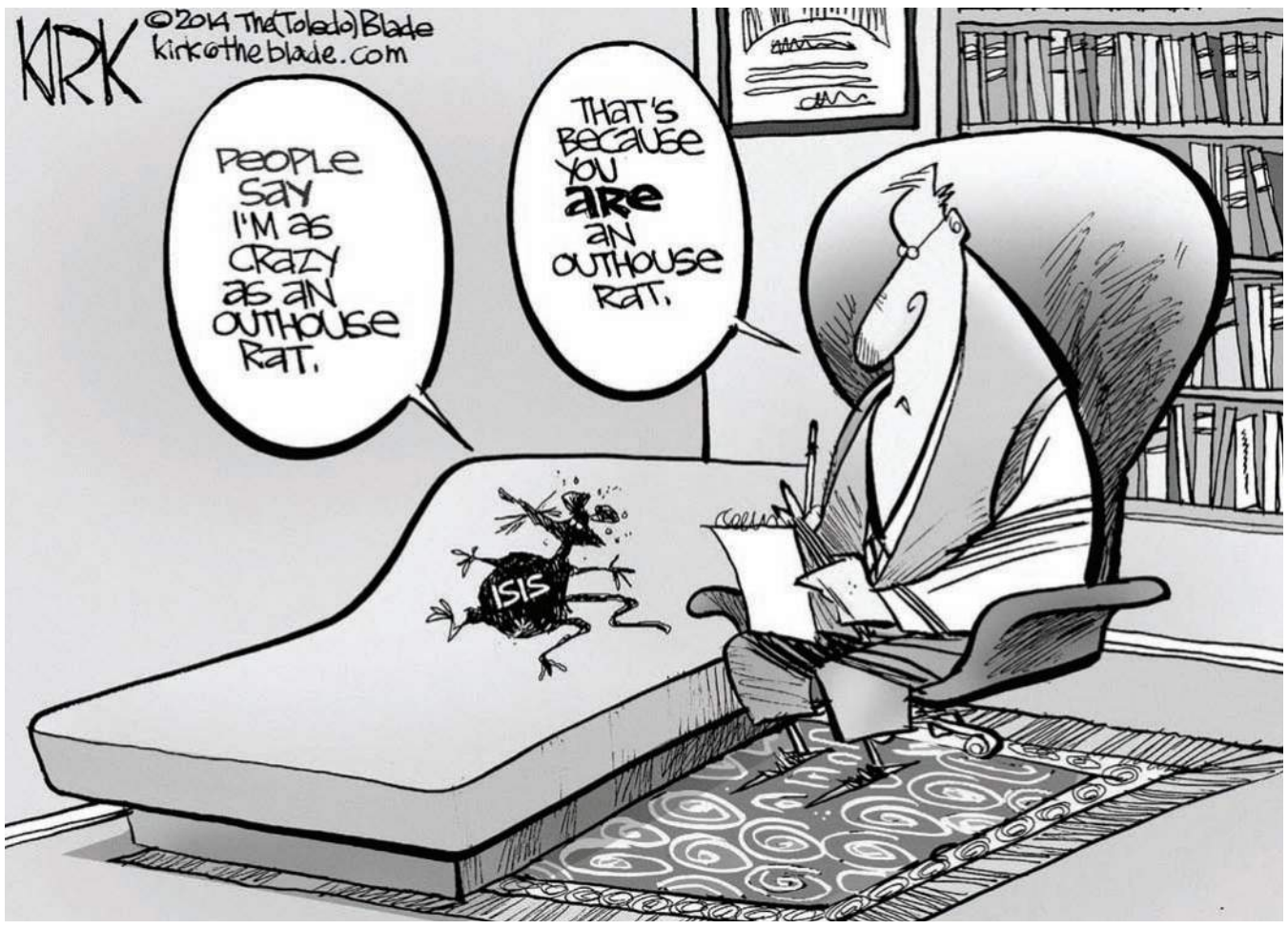
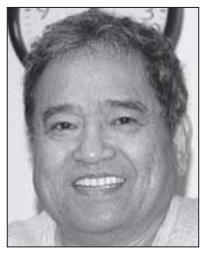


End of summer

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.



Aug. 7 began autumn in China when the temperature at dusk and dawn in the northeast got tolerable, though it remained scorching at midday. North China really did not feel like autumn but since Xi Jinping took his state visit to Mongolia late August, the warmth (though one could not tell by the way people were attired) remained a welcome state of the ambience.

The first Monday of September in the United States is considered the end of summer, though this is really more symbolic. It is the day before school kicks off so the feel for the end of summer is existentially real as families secure their camping gear in the garage, and the enterprising young boys and girls resume newspaper delivery routes.

The autumnal equinox does not occur until Sept. 22, but that is neither here nor there since the day is simply, more or less, the closest to equal time between daylight and nighttime at the equator when the sun looks like it is headed south; in fact, the Earth's rotation just tilts that way.

The Labor Day beat is also America's response to the worldwide observance of May Day, the latter of "socialist" origin from the labor unions at Chicago's pre-Ferguson riot of police at McCormick's!

End of summer is experienced more as the time when we set aside the white and light colored clothes for the darker ones that eventually end up with the solid dark come sun-deprived winter. Mainland U.S. and western Canada (a colleague sent me a picture of accumulated snow) drenched and soaked as fierce storms with hail and snow hit certain Midwest and Atlantic east coast regions.

On Saipan, we worked on our last BBQ for the year by the lagoon quaffing our ice-cold beer in the breeze, got the big screen for the NFL and college football seasons, and gathering chicken feathers and located the pumpkin pie recipe, cotton balls for snow, noted the gifts and lights to be shopped, located a real fir tree, caught a Pinoy to make real *parol*, and grabbed a crazy willing to be decked out as Santa in shorts to ride a water buffalo in December!

But we're ahead of the season of the winter solstice when the Earth hits the longest night, and the shortest day starts getting longer again, appropriated conveniently by the patriarchs to celebrate the Body of Christ (Christ Mass).

Endless Summer was a movie when I was young, of guys who went around the world chasing after the big wave to surf. Being a resident of Hawaii, I am familiar with the surfing culture, more so because my brother lived in Waianae before he moved to the new city of Kapolei, both locations of which are only a hop and a skip toward the north shore where the real aficionados wait it out for the big one. For looking fashionably comfortable, of course, one heads for Waikiki with sunglasses, an occasional touch of sand but from the shore, not from wading in the wave and the water. Serious surfers inhabit the windward side of Oahu.

Ours is a profession that goes by a "beginning-less summer" or more accurately, "hardly any summer" at all. I spent summers on Saipan with peers around meeting tables charting out the design of the incoming year in conferences too full to stretch the leg during deliberations, which was before we discovered that being aerobically fit also cleaned out the cobwebs of our minds, leaving brain cells to work efficiently and well.

Summer was what other people had before I lassoed them into the "productive" activities of the fall. This is the anti-fun component of my Victorian heritage as a second generation Methodist in a church parsonage. I already knew myself to have been born "beautifully brown" with the skin sheen akin and seen in Madagascar to Tahiti across the Indian Ocean, South Asia, Southeast Asia, and Oceania, from body surfing the waves and wild night dancing around the bonfire.

The end of summer in China came early this year as did the autumn rains that were too abundant in places not normally known to be wet, scarce in other places where dampness sweltered and aridity wilted the peonies, followed by the quakes and the monsoon-turn-violent typhoons; we had a sure-fire formula for tragedy.

The season came with the view of my neighbors from my solarium and my kitchen back window more rosy than bleak. My immediate community has the oldest set of tenement houses (1995) in the old Shenbei Center, now dwarfed by the surrounding high-rises for urban professionals. A retiree across the street opens his non-performing repair shop to keep busy since it obviously does not add income to his retirement benefit.

Younger men and women walk under my sunroom through the commons equipped with cellphones or tablets, locked in their own digital universes, ignoring each other's presence. They adore at the altar of the *renminbi* attending to the next sales' appointment and market deal.

The summer has not come to an end. Many just shut it down. Funny that I should just be discovering the pleasure of mine!

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

How our culture of instant communication has changed us

By DAVID T.Z. MINDICH
Los Angeles Times

David T.Z. Mindich teaches media studies at Saint Michael's College in Colchester, Vt., and is the author of Tuned Out: Why Americans Under 40 Don't Follow the News*. He wrote this for the* Los Angeles Times.

At the start of World War I, a century ago last month, the Pacific Ocean was flecked with little islands whose only means of communication with the larger world was by steamer. Residents of American Samoa got a radio in July 1914, according to a contemporary article in the *New York Times*. Other islands waited month to month to read stacks of old newspapers delivered by sea.

Walter Lippmann's 1922 book *Public Opinion* starts with a tantalizing anecdote about the effects of time-delayed media. When a British mail steamer arrived at one Pacific port more than a month after the Great War started, the island's European residents learned that "those of them who were English and those of them who were French had been fighting in behalf of the sanctity of treaties against those of them who were Germans. For six strange weeks they had acted as if they were friends, when in fact they were enemies."

It is remarkable to consider that only a century ago there were places in which men and women would crowd quays waiting for ships to disgorge old news. The summer of 1914 represents one of the last gasps of humanity's original communication system, in which news and people traveled at the same pace.

Julius Caesar's fastest way to send news was via a man on horse. More than 1,800 years later, George Washington used the same method. In 1815, Andrew Jackson won the Battle of New Orleans weeks after diplomats had ended the War of 1812.

Before the telegraph was invented and implemented in the 1840s, wrote Tom Standage in his book, *The Victorian Internet*, if a man picked someone's pocket in London or New York and hopped on a fast train, he was probably home free; no news could outpace his fast train. After the telegraph was invented, a thief escaping by train could be foiled by a message sent to the next station.

Fast forward to our time. On a Sunday night, May 1, 2011, President Obama announced to an audience of millions that Osama bin Laden had been killed by United States special forces. The killing had taken place a few hours before the president's announcement, at about 1 a.m. in Pakistan, which was nine hours ahead of Eastern time in the United States.

In other words, Obama told the nation on a Sunday night about events that transpired in Pakistan early Monday morning. The apparent time-bending was just a matter of the nine-hour time difference aided by instantaneous communication (Obama and his team watched the raid unfold in real time), rapid transportation (helicopters) and mass broadcast media that allowed the world to hear Obama make the announcement live.

When news traveled at human speed, there was a lag between what happened and when (and sometimes what) people found out about it. The shift over the last 100 years to a world cinched together first with wires and then with wireless networks is marked by an even more profound characteristic: instant communication. Instantaneity has changed us in countless ways. Here are three:

1. COLONIALISM AND IMPERIALISM

The telegraph and the wireless radio consolidated imperial power. Before then, media historian James W. Carey noted, the world, and even the British empire, was decentralized.

"It was difficult to determine whether British colonial policy was being set in London or by colonial governors in the field—out of contact and out of control," Carey wrote. "It was the cable and the telegraph, backed of course by sea power, that turned colonialism into imperialism: a system in which the center of an empire could dictate rather than merely respond to the margin."

2. ARBITRAGE

Arbitrage is the practice of buying cheaply in one place and selling in a more expensive market. In other words, if pork bellies in the 19th century were selling for $2 a pound in Boston and $1 a pound in Chicago, the telegraph, combined with the railroads, allowed traders to sell Chicago pork to Boston. The telegraph reached Chicago in 1848, precisely the year the Chicago Commodity Exchange was founded to allow for such trading. Today, stockbrokers can make and lose millions when their trading speed is a 10th of second different than that of their competitors.

3. TIME AND SPACE

Before the telegraph changed everything, each city had its own local time. Town timekeepers would judge noon by the sun's place in the sky and then set the official town clocks accordingly. Because of the differences in longitude and latitude, high noon in Boston and New York differed by about 12 minutes. To take a train from Boston to Chicago meant navigating many time changes.

Then, on Nov. 18, 1883, nicknamed the Day of Two Noons, the nation adjusted to standard time, aided by messages sent across telegraph lines. The United States was divided into the same four time zones used today: Pacific, Mountain, Central and Eastern. The rest of the world soon followed suit. It is no exaggeration to say that the telegraph changed our concept of time.

As for space (or, put another way, distance), in 1844, the telegraph's first year, the New York Herald asked, "What has become of space?" and provided its own answer: It had been "annihilated."

And here we are today, when the lag between event and knowledge of it has been narrowed even more. Once, we stood on the dock craving the moment when distant ships would come to us with the latest news. Now, if we wait on distant ships, it is not to discover what is captivating or roiling the world. For that, we have the lightning box in the palm of our hands.

LITERARY NOOK

ten years ago today

09/21/2004 to 09/27/2004

By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

This is September 2004, week number four
Disasters and deaths continue , more and more
Afghan, Gaza, Sudan—its war, war, and war
What do you remember from 10 years before?

09/21/2004
last week Tropical Storm Jeanne tore through Haiti
the death count now is over 500 from this deadly lady
at NYU Kerry said Bush "created a crisis of historic proportions" in Iraq
the Nat. Intelligence Council warned Bush of a civil war there a few months back

09/22/2004
eleven Afghan prisoners held in Guantanamo since 2001
due to request from Pres. Karzai are now back in the Afghan sun
Bush at the U.N. says war for weapons of mass destruction no error
Kerry says Iraq "an enormous diversion from the war on terror"

09/23/2004
in Haiti over 1,000 dead and 1,250 are missing
from Hurricane Jeanne out in the Atlantic still hissing
Israel buys plenty U.S. smart bombs—big and bad
two beheaded/one British hostage still alive in Baghdad

09/24/2004
in the constellation Hydra two galactic clusters collide
the crash site itself is 3 million light years wide
the larger galactic cluster contains 1,000 galaxies or more
the smaller one has 300, their immensity makes ones mind soar

09/25/2004
if Sudan can't protect the 1.5 million refugee population
then they should get U.N. help as a humanitarian obligation
the U.N. is for autonomy in Darfur according to this report
it says Sudan is obliged to ask for international support

09/26/2004
Israelis and Palestinians continue their war
missiles kill some and wound many more
Gaza fills with bloodshed from both sides shelling
when it will stop there is no way of telling

09/27/2004
U.S. jets light up the Sadr City, Iraq sky
more than fifty are wounded and at least five die
in Mosul insurgents attack and kill Iraq National Guard
in Baghdad they fire mortar rounds into a police academy yard

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Just plain killing

Operating a shelter is challenging in times of economic recession and the past few years have seen the number of abandoned animals increase in the face of lost incomes and difficult times. Animal lovers are working to help homeless dogs and cats and provide them with safety, food, and shelter. Dogs living on the streets cannot all be called strays. Many of them are cared for by people living around them. They are community dogs.

Suffering is inevitable for some, but our ability to understand and sympathize with their plight and circumstances plays a major role in whether we take action to relieve this suffering.

Compassion is a highly valued quality. It is more than just concern or empathy. Empathy involves the ability to feel the emotion of another animal, but compassion is fueled by wanting to take action to help the animal. Compassion is having a genuine care and concern in a way that is both active and responsive.

Euthanasia is a compassionate act. The definition of euthanasia is as follows.

■ *Euthanasia: Noun. The painless killing of a human or non-human suffering from an incurable disease or irreversible coma* (Oxford Dictionary).

■ *Euthanasia: The act or practice of killing a living being human or non-human who is terminally ill or injured in order to prevent any more suffering* (Webster's Dictionary).

■ *Euthanasia: The act or practice of painlessly ending the life of an animal or willing human who has a terminal illness or incurable condition as by lethal injection.*

"Euthanasia" only concerns death that is in the interest of a human or non-human in terminal suffering. Death is never in the interest of a healthy animal. When a shelter kills a healthy animal, it is not euthanasia, it is just plain killing, and it is wrong. We need a change.

Damiana Smith
Puerto Rico, Saipan

Not enforcing policy is equal to having no policy

I am elated by the words of Mr. John Davis in his recent letter to the editor that PSS has promulgated its policies, rules and regulations on "Student Safety." I do hope and with the help of Mr. Davis the message will flow well so that at least these policy pronouncements are pasted in PSS' website so that all can read and get accurate information.

In a recent drive to the MHS area, I observed a bunch of students smoking under the pine trees inside the campus boundary. I thought that these kids were only smoking cigarettes. But the smell was more like marijuana, and I could tell that it was. So, Mr. Davis, there are many reasons that the policy on this matter was not effectual and corrective.

With respect to the vetting of teachers' credentials, this is somehow questionable as well. You see Mr. Davis, the records on criminal convictions are public and anyone has access to them just by getting to the right website. So I randomly selected a former and retired teacher for the purpose of checking out any criminal conviction records of this individual. To my amusement, I found out the former teacher had a conviction for possession of a deadly weapon in a commission of a felony. So, something is not right, and you're telling me that PSS has done well with background checks on teachers and persons involved with the care of children under PSS custody and care?

This is not resonating well with some, as you can see. Again, another search of public records on a female teacher whose name was taken from a recent school yearbook showed that this person was convicted of prostitution, but still managed to be a teacher within the PSS organization. Since you are a former teacher yourself, we can search the public record to see if you have a clean and unblemished past; otherwise you can tell us that your criminal records are satisfactory.

The point here is that many things happen that fall through the cracks, and if the policy is there the situation will be corrected. Since it was not corrected, the net effect is the same as no policy doing this principal work. And, the stakeholders of PSS can only conclude that PSS lacks the policy on this matter and the children are still at risk, even though Mr. John Davis is certain that PSS does. This is the primer to the situation and enough point of reference to demand that PSS expose the certainty of the policy that Mr. John Davis says exist.

If it does, post it out. If it does not, say it loud.

Francisco R. Agulto
Kannat Tabla, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Mainly north winds 5 to 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Mainly north winds 5 to 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

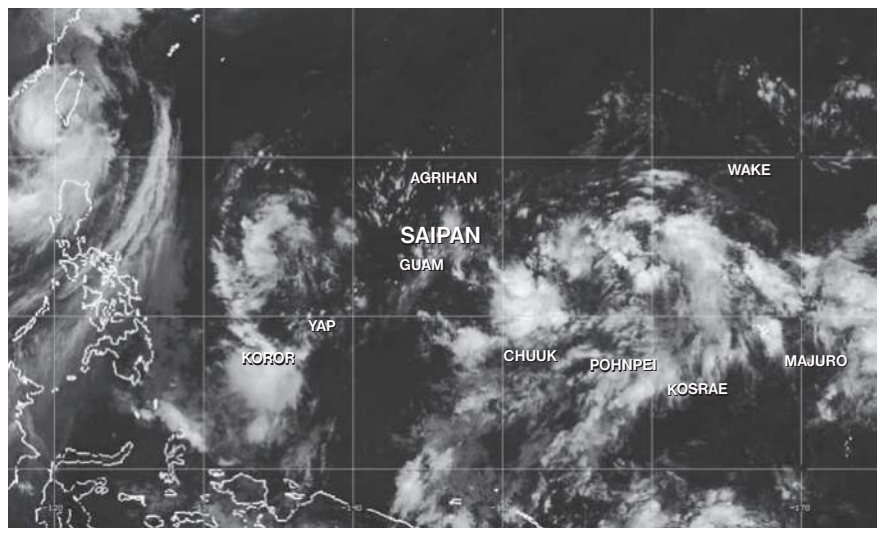
Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼79
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼81
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼78
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼78
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲58	▼48
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲80	▼64
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼76
Honolulu	Showers	▲88	▼77
London	Partly Cloudy	▲66	▼44
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲83	▼64
Manila	Thundershowers	▲85	▼75
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲74	▼48
Miami	Thundershowers	▲86	▼76
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲81	▼64
Osaka	Showers	▲81	▼61
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲66	▼47
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲76	▼69
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲80	▼66
Salem	Sunny	▲90	▼56
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲69	▼60
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲82	▼57
Tokyo	Showers	▲77	▼62
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼64

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2014
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough curves southeastward from 14N131E to a weak circulation centered southeast of Koror at 6N137E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found near Koror and west of Yap west of a line from 17N137E to EQ137E. A monsoon trough curves eastward from the circulation at 6N137E passing north of Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae to end near Kwajalein at 10N170E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are present near the trough between 8N and 16N from 149E to 170E. This is just north of Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae. Widely-scattered showers and a few thunderstorms south of Chuuk and Pohnpei between the equator and 8N from 145E to 160E. An upper-level low is centered northwest of Guam at 16N143E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are seen over the Marianas within 150 miles of a line from 19N141E to 14N147E. Another upper-level low centered east-northeast of Wake Island is triggering isolated thunderstorms between 19N and 24N from 167E to 173E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms near Majuro between 3N and 15N from 170E to 180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

1:34 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet
7:03 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
1:43 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
7:56 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:06 AM	6:14 PM
Tuesday	6:06 AM	6:13 PM
Wednesday	6:06 AM	6:12 PM
Thursday	6:06 AM	6:11 PM
Friday	6:06 AM	6:10 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	4:14 AM	4:50 PM
Tuesday	5:01 AM	5:28 PM
Tuesday	5:49 AM	6:07 PM
Tuesday	6:37 AM	6:47 PM
Tuesday	7:26 AM	7:28 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 28, 2014

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:30pm	4:10pm	6, 7 via Rota
UA5078	3:20pm	4:10pm	1, 5
UA5038	3:20pm	4:10pm	2, 4
UA5040	7:05pm	7:55pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:50pm	11:40pm	1, 5

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	2:30pm	3:05pm	6, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	3:35pm	4:10pm	6, 7

SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)

DL287	6:05am	11:15pm	2, 4, 6 via NRT

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

MU7076	4:15am	6:50am	2, 6
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764A	3:30am	7:30am	4, 7
MU764	4:00am	8:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:15am	8:55am	3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/473	6:05am	9:45pm	1, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:10pm	3 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:30pm	9:10pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	3:20pm	8:45pm	2 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:20pm	8:45pm	5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:20pm	9:10pm	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:20pm	9:10pm	4 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5068/179	8:00am	9:55pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:40am	9:55pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
D2 8009	12:50pm	4:05pm	Aug 5, 10, 14, 19, 24, 28
UA5039/179	2:30pm	9:55pm	6 via Rota-GUM
UA5078/179	3:20pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	1:10pm	2:00pm	6, 7
UA5038	1:10pm	2:50pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5077	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 5
UA5041	5:45pm	6:35pm	1, 5
UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5043	9:30pm	10:20pm	1, 5

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	1:10pm	1:45pm	2, 4

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	2:15pm	2:50pm	2, 4

PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN

DL298	4:30am	3:00pm	3, 5, 7 via NRT

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	3, 4, 5, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

MU7075	9:00pm	3:15am+1	1, 5
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763A	7:25pm	2:30am+1	3, 6
MU763	7:55pm	3:00am+1	4, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
DL172/288	7:55am	1:25am+1	3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5039	10:25pm	2:00pm+1	6 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:25pm	2:50pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:25pm	2:50pm+1	4, 7 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5041	10:25pm	6:35pm+1	4, 7 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:25pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 6 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:25pm	10:20pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	7:30am+1	2 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	8:05am+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5039	11:30pm	2:00pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5077	11:30pm	8:05pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
D28008	6:05pm	1:20am+1	Aug 5, 10, 14, 19, 24, 28
UA180/5071	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5039	9:55pm	2:00pm+1	5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5038	9:55pm	2:50pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA180/5077	9:55pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways; ORB: OREN AIR; D2: Dynamic Air

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

NMI gets $154K to manage watershed runoff

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia'aina announced Friday more than $300,000 in coral reef initiative grants to American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and Ulithi Atoll in the Federated States of Micronesia. The funds are made available through the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) Coral Reef Initiative program for various projects intended to help protect and preserve coral reef ecosystems and educate communities and students on management of these natural resources.

"The vitality and viability of coral reef ecosystems are absolutely critical to the livelihood, traditions and cultures of these Pacific Island communities," said Assistant Secretary Kia'aina, "The damaging effects of invasive species, pollution, and ecological change are impossible to ignore in these areas," she continued. "I am grateful that the federal government can support them in this meaningful way."

■ $121,000 for coral reef projects identified by American Samoa's Coral Reef Advisory Group to improve management and protection of their coral reef ecosystems. Projects include eradicating the invasive crown of thorns starfish, monitoring water quality, conducting a creel survey of the annual harvest of palolo worms and implementing the Two Samoas Environmental Cooperative.

■ $154,382 has been prioritized by the Northern Mariana Islands to support the regional efforts of the Micronesia Challenge in preserving natural resources that are crucial to sustaining Pacific Island traditions, cultures and livelihoods. These funds will also be used to reduce the amount of sediment, nutrients and other land-based sources of pollution in CNMI's watersheds. The Pacific Islands Watershed Institute will focus on watershed field assessments and stormwater management techniques while CNMI's "Watershed Warriors" and "CNMI Snorkels" initiatives for elementary school students and other education projects around the CNMI will help raise awareness about natural resource protection among our youth.

■ $33,075 will be used in Ulithi Atoll, one of the outer islands of Yap, in the Federated States of Micronesia, where a joint team of scientists and local resource managers will continue community outreach to develop coral reef resource management plans. Communities in Ulithi rely primarily on food from the sea, and have documented a decline in the amount and sizes of fish they are catching. The reefs that sustain those fish are also undergoing change, likely as a result of climate warming, unsustainable fishing practices and other human impacts. The team will work with small autonomously-governed communities in remote outer-island locations to strengthen their capacity to manage their coral reefs and other natural resources, and enhance sustainability during a time of rapid ecological change.

The Secretary of the Interior has administrative responsibility for coordinating federal policy in the territories of American Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and administering and overseeing U.S. federal assistance provided to the Freely Associated States of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau under the Compacts of Free Association. The Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas executes these responsibilities on behalf of the Secretary of the Interior through the Office of Insular Affairs. ***(OIA)***

INVITATION FOR BIDS
WATER TASK FORCE
IFB14-GOV-147

Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the CNMI Water Task Force, is soliciting sealed bids for the Gualo Rai Reservoir Replacement, Gualo Rai, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

A bid guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of the Treasury (T-Listed).

The Contractor will be required to submit payment and performance bonds from a US Treasury listed company. The Contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal laws including the Davis Bacon Act.

This project is funded by a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA), Department of the Interior. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the project approval from OIA.

The project consists, in general, but is not limited to:

- Construction of New Concrete Gualo Rai Reservoir with stairs and accessories.
- Demolition and removal of existing Gualo Rai Welded Steel Tank to include but is not limited to its tank concrete foundation and appurtenances.
- Modification of existing water supply pipes and other incidentals to complete the work per plans and specifications.
- Installation of Temporary Water Tanks, piping, fittings and chlorination/
- Construction of Chain Link fence and retaining walls.
- Removal of temporary facilities and control
- Pressure testing and chlorination of new tank and waterlines.
- Asphalt paving.
- Construction activity to not interrupt existing water service to the area.

A non-refundable payment of $500 to CNMI Treasury is required for each set of Plans, Specifications, and Proposal Forms, available on or after **September 22, 2014** at the Water Task Force Office, 1316 Anatahan Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan. A mandatory pre-bid conference for this project is scheduled at **10:00 a.m.**, on **October 3, 2014**, at the WTF Conference Room, Saipan. A project site visit will be made as a part of the pre-bid meeting.

All inquiries shall be in writing and addressed to Pedro Sasamoto, Program Manager, Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or faxed to (670) 664-2279. Inquiries must be received no later than 4:30 PM on **October 2, 2014**.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, contained in the CNMI Administrative Code, Title 70 Subchapter 70-30.3-301. Preference is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funds for this project.

Sealed bids must be marked **"IFB14-GOV-147"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 2:00 pm local time **October 22, 2014**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 2:00 pm local time **October 22, 2014**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **October 22, 2014**, and must be received no later than October 31, 2014. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 3:00 pm local time, **October 31, 2014**. However, if no Notices of Intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 3:00 pm local time on **October 22, 2014**.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ELOY S. INOS
Governor

/s/HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

CUC-RFEOI-14-020
Request for Expressions of Interest for Vegetation Line Clearing Services
(A Non-Binding, Informal Market Survey)

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director, requests "Expressions of Interest" (EOI) from qualified firms capable of providing supervision, labor, equipment, traffic control, debris removal and incidentals necessary to perform tree and brush cutting and removal service on various utility rights-of-way and utility lines in the CUC service territory.

The Request for Expressions of Interest is an exploratory project in order to survey market interest in Vegetation Line Clearing Services. It is not intended to be a formal or informal procurement process and CUC does not express or imply that any future procurement and/or acquisition process will occur, or that any preference will be given to those replying.

The CUC invites qualified firms to express their interest in performing the needed services. CUC will review all Expressions of Interests received, and based in part on these submittals, will decide on whether to outsource the Vegetation Line Clearing Services to private firms.

The CUC-RFEOI-14-020 Package will be e-mailed upon request to all interested firm, by the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, during working hours (7:30 AM to 4:30 PM), Monday thru Friday, except government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Four (4) copies must be submitted by hand or courier in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFEOI-14-020" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, Room No. 3, 3rd Floor Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 14, 2014**. Late submission will not be considered.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 26, 2014** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Procurement & Supply Manager via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org, with a copy to Gary Camacho, Power Division T&D Manager via email address gary.camacho@cucgov.org. CUC will respond to questions and clarifications only to prospective Offerors who have registered with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division for the solicitation.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
State Rehabilitation Council & Statewide Independent Living Council
P.O. Box 501521 Saipan, MP 96950, Tel.: (670) 322-6537 FAX: (670) 322-6536
TTY: (670) 322-6449 E-mail: nmidir@ovrgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the State Rehabilitation Council & Statewide Independent Living Council will jointly hold their FY 2014 Fourth General Membership Meeting on Friday, September 26, 2014 at 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM at Napu Room, Pacific Islands Club. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

I. Call to Order
II. Roll Call
- a. SRC Secretary – John Guerrero
- b. SILC Secretary – Emeterio Fitial

III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes
- a. SRC FY 2014 Third General Membership Meeting Minutes of July 25, 2014
- b. SILC FY 2014 Third General Membership Meeting Minutes of July 21, 2014

V. Reports
- a. SRC Chairperson – Isidro K. Seman
- b. QA/QI Committee Chairperson – James Rayphand
- c. Employment & Marketing Committee Chairperson – Elizabeth Ada
- d. Transition & Assistive Technology Committee Chairperson – Ellena Sutton
- e. Transportation, Housing & Advocacy Committee Chairperson – Vince Merfalen
- f. SILC Chairperson – Consolacion C. Atalig
- g. CLI Director – Lydia D. Igitol
- h. OVR Director – Arlene A. Yamagata, M.S., CRC

VI. New Business
- a. Review and Adoption of SILC Logo and Vision
- b. October 2014: National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM)
- c. Application to Host the 9th Annual Summit on Vocational Rehabilitation Performance Management Excellence ("Summit 2016")
- d. Review/Approval of SRC FY 2015 Resource Plan
- e. Review/Approval of SILC FY 2015 Resource Plan
- f. SRC Election of Officers for FY 2015
- g. SILC Election of Officers for FY 2015

VII. Consumer Forum
VIII. Announcements/Miscellaneous
IX. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodations such as large print or sign language interpreters, are asked to call Elvira Seman at 322-6537 (voice) or 322-6449 (TTY) five (5) days before the meeting.

/s/ **ISIDRO K. SEMAN**
SRC Chairperson

/s/ **CONSOLACION C. ATALIG**
SILC Chairperson

This advertisement is paid for with Federal funds made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education (DOE), Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS).

MINA's 3rd Green Gala draws a sold-out crowd

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

For the third year in a row, Mother Nature had a ball Friday night with the 3rd Green Gala drawing 250 people to the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan and host Marianas Islands Nature Alliance selling over $12,000 worth of tickets.

Echoing the sentiment of many in attendance, Sarah Fryling said she is happy to support the cause as a member of the business community. "I think like everyone else here, I am happy to be here and support the efforts of MINA. I consider it essential to keep up our island and our island's resources. I am here to support our island and our businesses."

Tickets to MINA's "night of elegance" were sold out three days before it took place.

Board member and MINA co-founder Fran Castro said the two previous galas were not as well-known as last weekend's fundraiser.

"This year we did not have to do much work because people knew about us and were very supportive throughout the entire process of planning and coordinating the event," she said. "For this fundraiser we are raising funds for our staff and operations. We have a lot of projects. The funds are unrestricted funds because we get a lot of grants but those are restricted and we can't use it to pay rent and services like telephone and Internet. We have to raise outside funds that can pay for those things. It also goes to some salaries for our Tasi Watch rangers that are our eyes and ears of the enforcement we are lacking here in the CNMI."

Mina's Green Gala in 2012 raised over $12,000 in cash and in-kind contributions.

MINA board chair Frankie Eliptico told *Saipan Tribune* the event also supports the nonprofit organization's various projects.

A new project under MINA, known as the Managaha Pride Campaign, raises awareness and builds support of regulations regarding illegal activities near Managaha. The organizations' Teacher Environmental Camp, according to Eliptico, helps teachers incorporate environmental lessons into their school's curriculum.

He said Joeten stores will soon be joining them in their "Taya Plastic" campaign, which aims to ban the use of plastic bags in the CNMI. When initiated, Joeten stores will not be using plastic bags on Tuesdays.

Eliptico expressed his gratitude to Friday night's attendees and said the organization sold only 250 tickets in order to ensure an elegant, comfortable night.

Eliptico also announced the merger of MINA with the Pacific Marine Resources Institute on Saipan. The organization, effective immediately, is now the Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance. ***(See related story)***

The evening also featured a silent auction and music by DJ Davey G.

MINA received $20,000 worth of contributions that were used for the silent auction. Eliptico said the final profit amount will be released later this week after his team

Continued on Next Page

San Vicente Elementary School librarian Rick Gramlich receives the environmental hero award on behalf of the SVES family.

MINA is now Micronesian Islands Nature Alliance

PMRI's Dr. Peter Houk and MINA's Frankie Eliptico join hands flanked by MINA board members after announcing the merger of the two non-profit environmental organizations. PHOTOS BY THOMAS A. MANGLONA II

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

The Mariana Islands Nature Alliance, or MINA, is now the Micronesian Islands Nature Alliance after merging with the Pacific Marine Resources Institute. The merger was officially announced by MINA board member Frankie Eliptico at the organization's signature Green Gala fundraiser at Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan on Friday.

"The merger with PMRI will only enhance all the projects that we currently have," Eliptico told *Saipan Tribune*. "Our roots as an agency is on Saipan but we now have our regionwide reach and are excited to be growing every year."

PMRI currently partners with the CNMI Division of Environmental and Coastal Quality and the Guam Marine Lab. By merging with MINA, PMRI will give MINA the opportunity to enhance its projects and bring their efforts to Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, American Samoa, and Guam.

"It is a regionwide agency but we are still anchored in the Marianas and focused on the Marianas," Eliptico noted.

MINA and PMRI will not be experiencing any drastic revamp in administration or projects, according to PMRI co-founder Dr. Peter Houk.

Houk, an assistant professor at the University of Guam Marine Laboratory, is a technical member of PMRI and said that MINA continues to be "an amazing community organization and management organization." He said the organization is always striving to build regional science technical publications, and now MINA will assist in translating the convoluted science information to the community for use.

"It is really a natural fit and it is something that we have been dreaming about for a long time. It is a big deal," he said. "The board of directors for MINA is fantastic and this event, the Green Gala, proves just how amazing they are. I am really happy to be a part of them."

Like MINA, PMRI is a nonprofit environmental organization based on Saipan and works to assess, monitor, and manage the islands' precious biological resources for sustainable use.

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Expanding our operations means helping you develop your career. Join our mission in total customer satisfaction by applying for the following positions:

Field Technician

- Install, integrate and test RF equipment and systems in the wireless (cellular) sector. Equipment types include Base station – Radio and System modules, diplexers, duplexers, combiners and coaxial cabling. All work to be performed between the BTS (Base Transceiver Station)or radio and the antenna system and will include all the intermediate elements.
- Install and terminate coaxial cable ranging from miniature types to ½" foam dielectric types. Install DC wiring from power plant to fuse panel and from fuse panel to equipment. Work with DC Power systems, DC Battery strings. Terminate AC Power.
- Perform acceptance tests including, but not limited to the antenna and duplexer subsystems. Testing to include RL (Return Loss), DTF (Distance to Fault) and IM (Intermodulation) analysis. Call testing, drive testing, etc.
- Provide a comprehensive report that encompasses all elements of the installation and processed by the Field Technician into a "closeout" package that serves as a "birth certificate" for the equipment installed. The closeout package will be provided to our customer as a demonstration of the work completed and provide benchmark. Data for future reference. This information will be sent via email, daily to the Regional Project Manager.
- Perform computer based tasks, commission base station and ancillary equipment. Perform call testing, PC based service testing – using customer based proprietary software, Telnet, Command Line interface. Must possess strong computer skills.

Accounting/Administrative Assistant

- Oversee all aspects of general office coordination.
- Transcribe, record, store and maintain information in written or electronic form.
- Work on accounting software's, application, POS System (MIND, Primal, Citrix, HLR)
- Overall in-charge of accounts payable such as tracking of accounts, preparation, receiving as well as distributing of check payables. Cash and other related accounting responsibilities.
- Lay-out and formulating or reformulating of Customer Service, Sales and Business Sales department proposed and/or requested revenue and sales reports.
- Direct Reports to management regarding the finances of establishment such as monthly revenues, expenses, sales report and others relating to Saipan sales and finance activities, analyzation of manual versus Citrix and MIND program based Saipan reports as well as customer's billing statement based on CDR versus MIND program (prepaid or postpaid)
- Performs customer service functions by answering employee request and questions
- Conducts benefits enrollment for new employees
- Assists with processing of terminations
- Makes photocopies, faxes documents and performs other clerical functions
- Assists or prepares correspondence
- Prepares new employee files
- Performs other duties such as company outside sales and promotional events at the request of the General Manager
- Performs other duties as assigned

Bench Technician

- Component level bench repair of various electronics equipment.
- Operated various test equipment to diagnose and isolate electronic problems.
- Interprets schematic diagrams.
- Utilizes computer to document and record findings and to perform research.
- Works flexible hours and days.
- Works outdoors in varying weather conditions.
- Performs after hours stand-by for emergency calls on operational head-end equipment and systems.
- Works safely and follow all OSHA, NEC, and company safety rules and procedures.
- All other duties assigned.

Fiber Technician

- Must be able to perform all the duties of a Maintenance and Fiber Technician.
- Able to operate Fusion Splicer.
- Able to test fiber strands with an OTDR and other fiber test equipment.
- Must have knowledge Headend Wiring/Cabling Documentation.
- Performs troubleshooting of the Headend.
- Must have knowledge of PathTrak Return Path Monitoring System.
- Works safely and follows all OSHA, NEC, and company safety rules and procedures.
- All other duties as assigned.
- Must be knowledgeable of the Stealth Sweep System.
- Must be able to operate MPEG Analyzer.
- Must be able to operate a Spectrum Analyzer.
- Must have knowledge of FCC compliance testing.

Inventory Support I

- Cellular handset feature/capability knowledge (training will be provided).
- Programming/Provisioning of all Handsets.
- Understanding all applications/protocols required for handsets and wireless devices.
- Monitor business services & retail counter for all inventory request/s.
- Monitors regular inventory reports to determine which products can be scheduled for regular delivery in order to reduce the necessity of special orders.
- Uses dolly or carry small items to proper department or storage space within the inventory department/warehouse.
- Maintains work in a clean and orderly manner.
- Assist with deliveries to retail locations when needed.
- Reports any discrepancies to supervisor and manager.

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CATV Plant-Broadband Technician

- *Responsible for the repair and maintenance of the entire CATV outside plant.*
- *Fiber optic and RF cable splicer.*
- *Sweep and align cable TV system.*
- *Energized, troubleshoot and repair trunk and line extender amplifier.*
- *Install and troubleshoot high speed internet.*
- *Install and repair microwave transmitter and receiver.*
- *Satellite dish installer and Maintenance.*
- *Check headend modulator.*
- *Install and maintain fiber optic transmitter and receiver.*
- *Install and repair CATV outside plant power supply.*
- *Must be able to lift 75 lbs.*
- *Capable of climbing power poles.*
- *Must be able to work shifting hours, weekends and holidays.*
- *Minium of 5 years experience.*

Telecommunications Technician

- *Analyze science and other data to implement and improve telecommunication systems.*
- *5 years experience with telecommunications systems required.*

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From Page 14

crunches the numbers.

Environmental Green Awards

Continuing its tradition of presenting awards to the community's environmental leaders, MINA recognized one individual, school, and business that demonstrated extraordinary commitment and dedication to the environment over the past year.

The Environmental Hero Award, an individual award, was presented to San Vicente Elementary School. The school has worked hard to implement erosion control and prevent stormwater runoff from polluting the ocean water. By installing a rain garden, SVES has helped keep coral reefs and fish healthy by reducing storm water runoff in their village. The elementary school's group of 50 students, known as the Young Farmer's Club, built a rain garden in an effort to demonstrate how vegetation can be used to collect and slow the flow of rainwater for greater absorption into the soil.

School librarian Rick Gramlich said he started the club five years ago. "Since then we have supported ourselves by growing different crops in the garden as well as using hydroponics. Every year we have to turn down kids because there are a lot of people who want to help and join the club."

Jose M. Kaipat received the Environmental Champion Award, an individual award. Kaipat, for the past 16 years, has joined the cleanup brigade every first Saturday of the month to enhance the beauty of the island. He volunteers his personal time to ensure that the cleanup occurs when scheduled and provides support for the volunteers. On some occasions, Kaipat even purchases supplies for the cleanups with his own money.

Kaipat hopes to continue his efforts with more members of the community on a consistent basis. "What I gain from doing what I do is the satisfaction that we have a clean environment," he said.

Brabu Health and Wellness received the Green Business of the Year award. The award pays tribute to a business that incorporates a "green business culture" through its entire organization.

The business, which is composed of eight employees, does not distribute single-use plastic bags and collected over 1 ton of recyclable material last year. Brabu Pharmacy also distributes seedlings for tree planting and offers organic over-the-counter products such as skin care products.

Raena Celis, the customer service department supervisor, said the company is honored to receive the award. "We are just one branch and a fairly new pharmacy and it really means a lot knowing that a lot of our regular customers and patients recognize the message we are trying to send. That is, to live green as much as you can."

Mike Sato and his guest pose for a photo at the photo booth during MINA's Green Gala last Friday night.

Sarah Fryling, left, and her guest are all smiles during the 3rd annual Green Gala hosted by MINA.

Guests enjoy a night filled with music, dance, and support for the environment at Fiesta Resort's Hibiscus Hall Friday night.

Brabu Pharmacy's Raena Celis accepts the Environmental business of the Year award flanked by MINA board members and representatives.

Guests enjoy a night of elegance with drinks and music during the 3rd annual Green Gala hosted by the Marianas Islands Nature Alliance.

TINIAN MUNICIPAL SCHOLARSHIP BOARD
Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
P.O. Box 520059, Tinian, MP 96952
Tel: (670) 433-1800 Fax: (670) 433-6082
Email: tinianscholarship@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Municipal Scholarship Board hereby gives notice that there will be a Regular Meeting on Thursday, September 25, 2014 at 3:30 p.m. at the Mayor's Conference Room, 1st floor, in San Jose Village, Tinian.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS[1]

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
1. Review & Finalized of Fall 2014 Scholarship Applicants
2. Disbursement of Fall 2014 Recipients Applicants

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

V. MISCELLANEOUS MATTER

VI. ADJOURNMENT

/s/ **JULIAN U. HOFSCHNEIDER**
Chairman

[1] We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments on the day of the meeting.

[2] Pursuant to 1 CMC section 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

[3]Individuals with special needs requiring special accommodations, please contact the TMSB office at least 48 hours prior to schedule meeting for assistance.

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- Ability to organize and express ideas and information clearly, accurately, and effectively through verbal and written capabilities.
- Must be professional and promote a positive attitude among customers and peers.
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- Flexibility to handle multiple tasks in an organized manner.
- Must have excellent administrative, organizational skills and excellent Microsoft Office and operational computer skills.

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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vacancy#14-002
POSITION TITLE : **Program Coordinator III (Physical Activity) - Limited Term Appointment**
Pay Level & Step : 24/01– 24/02
Annual Salary : $29,461.73 - $30,492.89
Location : As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
Opening Date: 9/9/2014 Closing Date: 9/24/2014 or Until Filled

Vacancy#14-009
POSITION TITLE : **Dean, Cooperative Research, Extension and Educational Service (CREES)**
Pay Level & Step : Ungraded
Location : As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
Opening Date: 8/12/2014 Closing Date: 9/15/2014 or Until Filled

Vacancy#14-014
POSITION TITLE : **Research Assistant I (2 Positions) - Limited Term Appointment**
Annual Salary : $15,080.00 - $15,607.80
Pay Level & Step : 10/1 – 10/2
Location : As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
Opening Date: 9/12/2014 Closing Date: 9/29/2014 or Until Filled

Applications must be submitted by 4:30 pm on the closing date. If there are no qualified applicants or the set of qualified applicants is deemed an insufficient pool, the closing date will be extended for two-week periods for further submission and review of applications until the search is closed. Deadlines that fall on a non-business day will be extended to the next business day. All salaries are subject to availability of funds.

Northern Marianas College is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Infantry Marines 'seize' Tinian in Valiant Shield exercise

By STAFF SGT. WARREN PEACE
ANDERSON AIR FORCE BASE GUAM

TINIAN, North Marianas Islands—U.S. infantry Marines, along with Guam National Guardsmen, conducted an island seizure exercise on Tinian on Sept. 20 during Valiant Shield 2014.

Marines, including Company A, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, were inserted ashore on the Pacific island of Tinian via two Ospreys from Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 265, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III MEF. Once on the beach, they encountered opposition provided by Guam's Army National Guard, Company A, 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry.

Days earlier, six Marines from 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, III MEF, began collecting intelligence on their objective in the jungles of Tinian, an old World War II-era compound. They then relayed their intelligence back to Guam where the infantrymen were waiting.

"The overall mission for this exercise vignette was to seize this [compound]," said Capt. Philipp Rigaut, commanding officer for Company A. "This is a great proof of concept for our ability to execute while having many things happen at the same time."

LANCE CPL. AUSTIN SCHLOSSER
Guam National Guardsman Spc. Mark Molinos, radio operator with Alpha Company, 1-294th Infantry Regiment, draws a map of the runway during Valiant Shield 2014.

The exercise is built around a series of scenarios, or vignettes, each of which becoming more complex than its predecessor.

As the opposing force, the approximately 25 National Guardsmen spent three days and two nights at the compound in order to learn the geography of the surrounding forest and to attempt to ascertain the area where the Marines would most likely attack.

During the recon, the senior enlisted personnel of the National Guard emphasized using noise discipline and their training in order to battle complacency.

"When we are training with other units, the bottom line we tell our soldiers is 'be professional,'" said Staff Sgt. Clarence Elicio, squad leader with the Guam National Guard. "We tell them to keep an eye open for the tactics the other units use, then we come together afterward to pick and choose what worked for them that might not have worked for us, and vice versa."

After hours of reconnaissance from both sides, the Marines intercepted the National Guard security and later arrived at the compound.

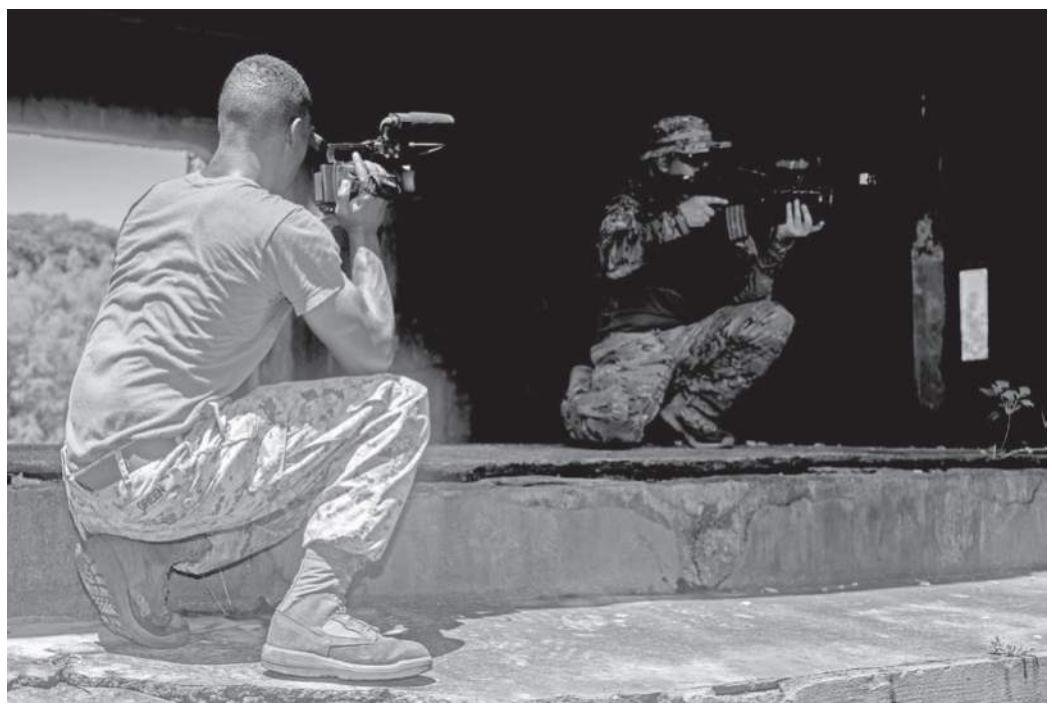
LANCE CPL. AUSTIN SCHLOSSER
Guam National Guardsmen with Alpha Company, 1-294th Infantry Regiment, patrol a trail during Valiant Shield 2014.

According to 1st Lt. Marcelino Figueroa, rifle platoon commander with Company A, his Marines definitely learned new things for future conflicts.

"Exercises like Valiant Shield keep help keep our proficiency high, and it's always good working with the Guam National Guard," said Figueroa. "We saw their tactics and how they do things versus us. Now we'll take those lessons and hopefully apply them to some of our future operations."

Valiant Shield is a U.S.-only exercise integrating an estimated 18,000 Navy, Air Force, Army and Marine Corps personnel, more than 200 aircraft and 19 surface ships, offering real-world joint operational experience to develop capabilities that provide a full range of options to defend U.S. interests and those of its allies and partners.

LANCE CPL. AUSTIN SCHLOSSER
A Guam National Guardsman with Alpha Company, 1-294th Infantry Regiment, provides security during Valiant Shield 2014.



LANCE CPL. AUSTIN SCHLOSSER
U.S. Marine Corps Pfc. Lyman Green, combat videographer with Combat Camera Consolidated, Marine Corps Installations Pacific, records a Guam National Guardsman providing security during Valiant Shield 2014.

LANCE CPL. AUSTIN SCHLOSSER
Guam National Guardsmen with Alpha Company, 1-294th Infantry Regiment, use their map to survey a perimeter during Valiant Shield 2014.

LANCE CPL. AUSTIN SCHLOSSER
Guam National Guardsman Spc. Jeremy Manibusen, Infantry Rifleman with Alpha Company, 1-294th Infantry Regiment, provides security during Valiant Shield 2014.

Business

Investors breathe sigh of relief at Scottish vote

LONDON (AP)—Scotland's decision to reject independence from the United Kingdom gave British markets a short-term lift Friday but worries over future constitutional changes kept a lid on the relief rally.

The No campaign won 55.3 percent of the votes cast in Thursday's referendum against 44.7 percent who backed independence. The margin was wider than expected—most opinion polls on the eve of the vote were predicting a narrower 4-point victory for proponents of the union with England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Investors breathed a sigh of relief that a host of thorny economic issues were not triggered by a Yes vote. The FTSE 100 index of leading British shares ended up 0.3 percent at 6,837.92 but had been higher earlier in the session.

As well as worries over what currency an independent Scotland would use, investors had concerns over how the U.K.'s 1.3 trillion pounds ($2.1 trillion) debt would be split. There were even fears that a Yes vote may have triggered a bank run. The uncertainty was so great that Bank of England Governor Mark Carney flew back early from a summit in Australia.

"It might not have been financial meltdown territory, but the markets almost certainly would have been in turmoil if the Scots had voted yes," said Dennis de Jong, managing director at UFX.com.

Those companies with Scottish connections outperformed the general market. Among them, Royal Bank of Scotland PLC closed up 2.5 percent, while Lloyds Banking Group PLC rose 1.3 percent.

Royal Bank of Scotland, which is majority-owned by the U.K. government since receiving a bailout during the financial crisis in 2008, said it was abandoning a contingency plan that included moving its head office down south to England.

"That contingency plan is no longer required," the bank said in a statement. "Following the result it is business as usual for all our customers across the U.K. and RBS."

In the currency markets, the pound suffered a bit of a reverse Friday as traders raked in profits accumulated over the past week when the currency rallied strongly on growing expectations of a No vote.

G-20 says close to goal of $2 trillion in growth

SYDNEY (AP)—Finance chiefs from the 20 largest economies said on Sunday they are close to reaching their goal of boosting world GDP by more than $2 trillion over the next five years, and will focus on infrastructure investment to help reach the target.

Australian Treasurer Joe Hockey, who hosted the Group of 20 meeting in the northern Australian city of Cairns, said the G-20 finance ministers and central bankers had agreed to more than 900 policy initiatives to meet the goal they set in February during a gathering in Sydney.

The G-20, which represents about 85 percent of the global economy, said an analysis of those initiatives show they should boost the combined gross domestic product of member countries by 1.8 percent above levels expected for the next five years—just short of the group's target of 2 percent.

In July, the International Monetary Fund downgraded its economic forecast, estimating the world economy would expand 3.4 percent this year, rather than the 3.7 percent it had previously predicted, due to weaker growth in the U.S., Russia and developing economies.

Last week, the lending organization amped up pressure on the G-20 to take action on its global growth commitment, calling for decisive structural reforms. On Sunday, IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde said the G-20 would need to concentrate on labor market measures and infrastructure in order to reach its 2 percent growth goal by 2018.

"They are almost done, but need to do a bit more," Lagarde told reporters after the meeting.

Hockey said the group had agreed to shift its focus from government-led growth to private sector-led growth, particular from additional investment in infrastructure. In a communique issued after the meeting, the G-20 outlined a Global Infrastructure Initiative, which would include the development of a database to help match potential investors with projects.

The group also warned that while economic conditions had improved in some key economies, global growth remained uneven and below the pace necessary to generate critically needed jobs.

Chrysler recalling nearly 189,000 SUVs

DETROIT (AP)—Chrysler is recalling almost 189,000 Jeep Grand Cherokees and Dodge Durangos in the U.S. to fix a fuel pump problem that can cause the SUVs to stall.

But a safety advocate says the recall doesn't cover enough models, contending the same problem can happen in millions of other Chrysler, Jeep and Ram vehicles.

The recall, posted Saturday by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, covers some 2011 models with 3.6-liter V6 or 5.7-liter V8 engines. Chrysler says a relay can fail, increasing the risk of a crash, although the company said that as of Aug. 25, it wasn't aware of any crashes or injuries.

The company began looking into the problem in October of 2013 and traced it to a spring that can become deformed because of heat.

The vehicles also might not start, and the fuel pump could keep working even when the engine is shut off. The company says that as of Aug. 25 it's not aware of any crashes or injuries from the problem.

The recall covers SUVs built from Jan. 25, 2010 through July 20, 2011, according to the NHTSA documents.

Dealers will replace the fuel pump relay for free starting Oct. 24.

The Center for Auto Safety, a nonprofit advocacy group founded by Ralph Nader, says the recall is inadequate because more than 5 million other Chrysler vehicles have the same fuel pump power control module as the Grand Cherokee and Durango.

"Chrysler should recall them all," Clarence Ditlow, the center's executive director, said Saturday.

Ditlow's group filed a petition last month asking NHTSA to investigate power system failures in Chrysler vehicles that could cause them to stall while being driven.

In the petition, the group contended that an electrical power control module used by Chrysler in millions of vehicles since 2007 can go haywire, causing them to stall in traffic and cut off devices powered by electricity. The allegation covered Ram pickup trucks, Chrysler and Dodge minivans, the Jeep Grand Cherokee, Dodge Durango and Dodge Journey SUVs, the Jeep Wrangler, and other models.

The safety group says it has received over 70 complaints and that the government has received hundreds.

NHTSA has yet to make a decision on whether to investigate the matter. Chrysler said it is investigating consumer complaints and retrieving components from vehicles in the field for a closer analysis. The company says its vehicles meet all federal safety standards.

Nation

Secret Service boosts security outside WH

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Secret Service chief has stepped-up security outside the White House after a man with a knife who jumped the fence made it into the presidential residence before being apprehended, officials said Saturday.

President Barack Obama insisted he still has confidence in the beleaguered agency's ability to protect him and his family.

Secret Service Director Julia Pierson ordered enhanced officer patrols and surveillance along the North Fence of the compound just after the incident on Friday evening, which triggered a rare evacuation of the White House as well as renewed scrutiny of the Secret Service. The agency said Pierson had also ordered a comprehensive review of what happened.

"The president has full confidence in the Secret Service and is grateful to the men and women who day in and day out protect himself, his family and the White House," said White House spokesman Frank Benenati. He said the White House expected Pierson's review to be conducted "with the same professionalism and commitment to duty that we and the American people expect from the U.S. Secret Service."

The presidential vote of confidence came as the storied agency sought to dispel growing concerns about security at the White House, one of the most heavily protected buildings in the world. Another man was arrested Saturday outside the White House in an unrelated event.

President Barack Obama and his daughters had just left the White House by helicopter on Friday evening when the Secret Service says 42-year-old Omar J. Gonzalez scaled the fence, darting across the lawn and through the unlocked North Portico doors before officers finally tackled him.

AP

Uniformed Secret Service officers walk along the lawn on the North side of the White House in Washington, Saturday, Sept. 20, 2014.

SpaceX launches 3-D printer, other station gear

CAPE CANAVERAL (AP)—A SpaceX cargo ship rocketed toward the International Space Station on Sunday, carrying the first 3-D printer for astronauts in orbit.

In all, the unmanned Dragon capsule is delivering more than 5,000 pounds of space station supplies for NASA.

Dragon should reach the space station Tuesday. It's the fifth station shipment for the California-based SpaceX.

The space station was soaring over the South Pacific when the SpaceX Falcon 9 thundered into Florida's predawn sky. Sunday's weather was ideal for flying, unlike Saturday, when rain forced a delay. The rocket was visible for nearly three minutes as it sped out over the Atlantic.

The 3-D printer was developed by Made in Space, another California company. It's sturdier than Earthly models to withstand the stresses of launch, and meets NASA's strict safety standards. The space agency envisions astronauts one day cranking out spare parts as needed. For now, it's a technology demonstrator, with a bigger and better model to follow next year.

A $30 million device for measuring ocean winds is also flying up on Dragon, along with 20 mice and 30 fruit flies for biological research and metal samples for a golf club manufacturer looking to improve its products.

Much-needed spacesuit batteries are on board as well, along with the usual stash of food, clothes and electronic gear. Routine U.S. spacewalks were put on hold following last year's close call with an astronaut's flooded helmet. That problem was solved, then the battery fuses were called into question. NASA hopes to resume spacewalks next month.

NASA is paying SpaceX and Virginia-based Orbital Sciences Corp. to make regular station deliveries. The SpaceX service began two years ago.

Just this past week, SpaceX—led by billionaire Elon Musk—won an even bigger and more prestigious contract to transport U.S. astronauts to the orbiting outpost, along with Boeing. Dragon rides could begin as early as 2016 or 2017.

ACROSS THE NATION

Teams assess damage as California wildfire burns

POLLOCK PINES, Calif. (AP)—Assessment teams sought Saturday to find out just how many structures have been damaged or destroyed by a massive wildfire that threatens thousands of homes in Northern California. While officials confirmed that several structures have been lost in what is being called the King Fire, dangerous conditions have prevented them from determining an exact number or how many of them were homes, fire spokesman Mike McMillian said. The blaze began one week ago, and a man accused of starting the blaze is being held on $10 million bail. Although record amounts of retardant have been dropped on the fire that's about 60 miles from Sacramento, the blaze spread another eight square miles Friday night and Saturday as forecasters say smoke from it could be seen in the San Francisco Bay Area. More than 5,000 firefighters—from as far as Florida and Alaska—are helping California crews battle the blaze that has not only consumed grass and brush, but swaths of extremely dry tall timber.

More than 1K people search for missing UVa student

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. (AP)—Nearly 1,000 volunteers, some driven by worry for the safety of their own families, fanned out from the University of Virginia campus Saturday to search for a sophomore who disappeared a week ago. Volunteers met at the university's basketball arena before going out in teams throughout Charlottesville to search for 18-year-old Hannah Graham. "I have two daughters of my own and I would hope that if one of them was missing, everyone would come out as well," said Marci Stewart, a volunteer searcher. Police said Friday they have spoken with a man they believe was with her in a bar on the night she went missing, but did not have enough information to arrest or detain him after searching his car and apartment.

Asia

PH storm moves north, leaves 5 dead

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A storm that brought torrential monsoon rains which flooded much of the Philippine capital gained strength and battered the country's northernmost provinces Saturday with heavy downpours and strong winds.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council reported that more than 700,000 people were affected by Tropical Storm Fung-Wong in metropolitan Manila and in northern and central Philippine provinces, forcing more than 205,000 to evacuate. At least five people died.

Gov. Imee Marcos of Ilocos Norte on the northwest section of the main island of Luzon said fierce winds and heavy rains battered her province for more than 12 hours, blowing away roofs, toppling trees and flooding highways.

"I am basically holed up in my bedroom with a generator and several computers and telephones because I can't even cross the street," she told The Associated Press Saturday by telephone from the provincial capital of Laoag, about 400 kilometers (290 miles) north of Manila.

"Basically I told everyone to hunker down. There is very little we can do," she said.

She said floodwaters and fallen trees have cut off some highways to her province. Rescuers were headed to those trapped by the flooding, and relief supplies were being distributed, she said, adding there were no immediate reports of casualties.

AP

A resident balances himself on a makeshift floater as he evacuates to safety after heavy monsoon rains spawned by tropical storm Fung-Wong flooded Marikina city, east of Manila, Philippines and most parts of the metropolis Friday, Sept.19, 2014.

Dalai Lama praises China's leader as 'realistic'

NEW DELHI (AP)—The Dalai Lama praised Chinese President Xi Jinping on Saturday for being "more realistic" and principled than his predecessors, a day after Xi's three-day visit to India ended.

The Tibetan Buddhist spiritual leader has lived in exile for decades in India's Himalayan foothill city of Dharamsala, after fleeing China following a failed 1959 uprising. The arrangement has irritated Beijing, which has long accused the Dalai Lama of fomenting unrest and encouraging Buddhist monks to self-immolate in demanding more autonomy for Tibet, a Himalayan region in western China that borders India, Bhutan and Nepal.

However, Beijing's attitude appears to be shifting, the Dalai Lama said, noting that China's Communist leaders, who officially are atheist, are now "mentioning the importance of spiritualism."

"There are a lot of changes," the Dalai Lama told reporters.

He said that since becoming president in March 2013, Xi has demonstrated "through his handling of problems, he is comparatively more realistic and with more principles" than his predecessors.

The remarks brought no immediate comment from China's government or state media. However, Beijing has previously denounced the Dalai Lama as a separatist traitor and warned that any of his moderate comments are deceptive. China says the Himalayan region has been part of Chinese territory for centuries, while Tibetans say it was virtually independent until China occupied it in 1950.

India is home to a large Tibetan community as well as Tibet's government-in-exile. During Xi's visit to New Delhi this past week, dozens of Tibetan protesters shouting "Hands off Tibet!" staged a noisy demonstration outside the building where he was meeting with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Quakes destroy or damage 83 houses in PH

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A series of earthquakes destroyed 17 houses and damaged 66 others Saturday in a southern Philippine town, slightly injuring three people, officials said. A magnitude-5 quake, the strongest of the tremors that shook the area, caused most of the damage in one mountain village, said Eduardo Buenacosa, disaster officer of Makilala municipality in North Cotabato province. Local officials were preventing residents of houses that were destroyed from returning home because of the danger of a collapse, he said. He said three people were treated for bruises after they were hit by concrete fragments from collapsed walls.

Rescuers save 50,000 as floods hit south Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistan's disaster management agency said Saturday that rescuers with boats and helicopters had evacuated about 50,000 people from the country's south after raging floods inundated more villages there. In a statement, Pakistan's National Disaster Management Agency said about two dozen people were killed in the past 24 hours in the eastern Punjab province, raising the death toll from rains and flooding to 346. It said flood waters wreaked havoc in Punjab province and were now passing through remote areas in the southern Sindh province, but so far no deaths had been reported there. Pictures from Pakistani news channels showed submerged villages and people living in tents and in open areas.

Last king of Nepal suffers heart attack

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)—Doctors say Nepal's former king has suffered a heart attack and has been hospitalized. Dr. Bharat Rawat at the Norvic Hospital in Katmandu said Gyanendra Shah was brought to the hospital Saturday night. He was recovering in the intensive care unit and was out of danger. Hundreds of his supporters crowded the hospital Sunday. Gyanedra was the last king to rule Nepal before the Constitution Assembly abolished the centuries-old monarchy from the Himalayan nation and turned the country into a republic. He was crowned as king in 2001 after the killing of his elder brother in palace massacre but remained mostly unpopular. Mass demonstrations forced him to give up his authoritarian rule.

World

NATO chief: Ukraine has cease-fire 'in name only'

VILNIUS, Lithuania (AP)—NATO's top general said Saturday the two-week-old truce between Ukraine and pro-Russian militants fighting in the country's east is a "cease-fire in name only," and he said that by enabling a free flow of weapons and fighters across the border Russia has made it nearly impossible to determine how many of its troops are operating inside Ukraine.

U.S. Air Force Gen. Philip Breedlove, the Supreme Allied Commander Europe, told a news conference after meeting with NATO military chiefs that he is hopeful about Saturday's announced agreement for creation of a buffer zone between Ukrainian and pro-Russian forces.

The deal reached by representatives of Ukraine, Russia, the Moscow-backed rebels and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe marks an effort to add substance to the Sept. 5 cease-fire agreement that has been frequently broken by clashes.

Breedlove has put the main blame on Russia for the continuing conflict.

"So the situation in Ukraine is not good right now," he said. "Basically we have a cease-fire in name only."

Breedlove said violence levels in Ukraine, including the number of artillery rounds fired in the past few days, are as high as prior to the cease-fire.

Asked about prospects for an acceptable end Sunday to the prolonged stalemate in Kabul over Afghanistan's presidential election, Breedlove sounded an optimistic note, saying NATO officials have spoken with both candidates, former foreign minister Abdullah Abdullah and former finance minister and World Bank official Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai.

"We believe they are very, very close to forming that unity government (which) we think is very important," Breedlove said.

He said both Abdullah and Ghani Ahmadzai have promised a "quick signature" to a U.S.-Afghan security agreement that would provide the basis for nearly 10,000 American troops to remain in the country after the U.S. and NATO combat missions end in December. The current president, Hamid Karzai, negotiated the deal last year but refused to sign it.

Sierra Leone staggers in Ebola isolation effort

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone (AP)—Some in Sierra Leone ran away from their homes Saturday and others clashed with health workers trying to bury dead Ebola victims as the country struggled through the second day of an unprecedented lockdown to combat the deadly disease.

Despite these setbacks, officials said most of Sierra Leone's 6 million people were complying with orders to stay at home as nearly 30,000 volunteers and health care workers fanned out across the country to distribute soap and information on how to prevent Ebola.

The virus, spread by contact with bodily fluids, has killed than 560 people in Sierra Leone and more than 2,600 in West Africa since the outbreak began last December, according to the World Health Organization. It is killing about half of the people it infects.

The streets of the capital, Freetown, were empty Saturday except for the four-person teams going door to door with kits bearing soap, cards listing Ebola symptoms, stickers to mark houses visited and a tally to record suspected cases.

Among the volunteers was Idrissa Kargbo, a well-known marathoner who has qualified for races on three continents but whose training and career have been stymied by the outbreak.

Although early responses to the disease have been marred by suspicion of health workers, Freetown residents on Saturday seemed grateful for any information they could get, Kargbo told The Associated Press.

"Some people are still denying, but now when you go to almost any house they say, `Come inside, come and teach us what we need to do to prevent,'" Kargbo said. "Nobody is annoyed by us."

Sierra Leone's government is clearly hoping the lockdown will help turn the tide against the disease which the U.N. health agency estimates will take many months to eradicate in the country. In a speech before the lockdown, President Ernest Bai Koroma said "the survival and dignity of each and every Sierra Leonean" was at stake.

The strategy has drawn criticism, however. The charity group Doctors Without Borders warned it would be "extremely difficult for health workers to accurately identify cases through door-to-door screening."

Kurdish fighters head to Syria to face militants

BEIRUT (AP)—Hundreds of Kurdish fighters raced from Turkey and Iraq into neighboring Syria on Saturday to defend a Kurdish area under attack by Islamic State militants. As the fighting raged, more than 60,000 mostly Kurdish refugees streamed across the dusty and barren border into Turkey, some hobbling on crutches as others lugged bulging sacks of belongings on their backs.

The large-scale displacement of so many and the movement of the Kurdish fighters into Syria reflected the ferocity of the fighting in the northern Kobani area, which borders Turkey. Militants of the extremist Islamic State group have been barreling through the area for the past three days, prompting Kurdish leaders to plead for international help.

Civilians seeking safety began massing on the Turkish border on Thursday. Turkey did not let them in at first, saying it would provide them with aid on the Syrian side of the border instead. By Friday, it had changed its mind and started to let in several thousand.

The numbers grew quickly as more entry points opened, and by late Saturday afternoon, more than 60,000 had poured across the frontier, Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Numan Kurtulmus said.

Even by the standards of Syria's bitter war, it was unusual for so many refugees to flee in such a short time. Their numbers add to the 2.8 million Syrians who have become refugees in the past three years, and another 6.4 million who have been displaced within their own country—nearly half of Syria's prewar population of 23 million.

Many of those who came across Saturday cradled young children or carried them on their shoulders. Kurtulmus said some refugees were staying with relatives, while others took shelter in schools or tents.

"Kobani is facing the fiercest and most barbaric attack in its history," said official Mohammed Saleh Muslim, head of Syria's powerful Kurdish Democratic Union. The groups' members dominate the Syrian Kurdish group known as the YPK, which is fighting the Islamic State militants.

"Kobani calls on all those who defend humane and democratic values ... to stand by Kobani and support it immediately. The coming hours are decisive," he said.

Health & Fitness

Options for protection come with flu season

By LAURAN NEERGAARD
AP MEDICAL WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—It's time for flu vaccine again and while it's important for the whole family, this year health officials have some different advice for different ages: Certain kids should opt for the ouchless nasal spray. Seniors, expect to get a new kind of pneumonia shot along with that flu jab.

And too many young and middle-age adults are skipping the vaccine altogether, says the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention—even though there are more options than ever.

"The best way to protect yourself against the flu is to get a flu vaccination," said CDC Director Dr. Tom Frieden on Thursday, before rolling up his sleeve to get his own flu shot.

Some things to know about flu vaccinations:

WHO SHOULD BE VACCINATED

The government recommends a yearly flu vaccine for nearly everyone starting at 6 months of age. Yet only about half of Americans get one, a number Frieden called unfortunate. On average, the CDC estimates, flu kills about 24,000 Americans a year.

HOW MANY ARE

Vaccination rates last year were highest for children under 5—70 percent—and for seniors—65 percent, the CDC said. But just a third of healthy adults ages 18 to 64 got vaccinated and, surprisingly, last year hospitalizations were highest among that age group.

About 55 percent of school-age children were vaccinated. Parents need to realize that flu vaccine is crucial even for otherwise healthy children, said Dr. Paul Offit of the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. At least 100 U.S. children died of flu last year, only half of whom had lung conditions or other illnesses that put them at high risk and most of whom weren't vaccinated.

About half of pregnant women get vaccinated. The shot can be given during any trimester, and also protects the baby during the first few months of life, said obstetrician Dr. Laura Riley of Massachusetts General Hospital.

THE VACCINE SUPPLY

About 150 million doses are being shipped this year, with no signs of shortages or delays, Frieden said. About half will protect against four strains of influenza instead of the usual three, he said, as U.S. manufacturers move toward vaccines with that extra bit of protection. CDC doesn't recommend one over the other.

WHICH KIND TO CHOOSE

For the first time this year, the CDC says the ouchless FluMist nasal spray version is the preferred vaccine for healthy children ages 2 to 8, after research showed it works a little better for them. But don't wait if your doctor has only the shot—just get them vaccinated, said Dr. William Schaffner of Vanderbilt University and the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases.

FluMist also can be used by healthy people ages 2 through 49 who aren't pregnant.

If a squirt up the nose isn't for you, there are lots of other options: the regular shot; an egg-free shot for those allergic to eggs; a high-dose shot just for those 65 and older whose immune systems may need an extra boost; and a tiny-needle shot that just penetrates the skin. The Food and Drug Administration also recently approved a needle-free injector to deliver flu vaccine, although it's not clear how soon it will be widely available.

NEW ADVICE FOR SENIORS

This year, the CDC is urging people 65 and older to get a new kind of pneumonia vaccine along with their flu shot.

Children already receive Pfizer's Prevnar-13 to prevent a kind of bacteria, called pneumococcus, that can cause pneumonia, meningitis and other infections. Now seniors need a one-time dose, too, Frieden said.

That's in addition to a one-time dose of another long-used pneumonia vaccine, called a polysaccharide vaccine. The caveat: The two pneumonia shots have to be given at least six months apart. If you've had neither so far, get the new kind first—along with this year's flu shot—and come back later for the second pneumonia vaccine, advised Schaffner. Together, the two pneumonia shots are expected to cut seniors' risk of pneumococcal infection by 45 percent, and the chance of severe disease by 75 percent, he said.

WHEN TO GET VACCINATED

"Now's the time," Frieden said. It's impossible to predict when flu will start spreading and it takes about two weeks for protection to kick in. Flu season typically peaks in January or February.

WHAT'S THE COST

The vaccine is covered by insurance and Medicare, usually without a copay. For the uninsured, it can cost about $30, although Schaffner advised checking public health clinics for free or reduced-cost shots.

FDA approves injectable diabetes drug

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Food and Drug Administration has approved a new injectable diabetes drug from Eli Lilly and Co. for adults with the most common form of the disease.

The agency on Thursday cleared the drug, Trulicity, as a weekly injection to improve blood sugar control in patients with type 2 diabetes, which affects more than 26 million Americans. The drug is part of a new class of medicines called GLP-1 agonists, which spur the pancreas to create extra insulin after meals.

Type 2 diabetes accounts for 90 percent of U.S. cases of the disease and occurs when the body doesn't properly produce or use the hormone insulin. Drugs to treat the disease represent a large slice of Lilly's product portfolio, which includes the insulins Humalog and Humulin.

Indianapolis-based Lilly is counting on new drugs like Trulicity to replace falling revenue from blockbusters like the antidepressant Cymbalta, which is facing cheaper generic competition after the expiration of its patent.

Health law enrollment now 7.3M

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Obama administration says 7.3 million people have signed up for subsidized private health insurance under the health care law—down from 8 million reported earlier this year.

Medicare Administrator Marilyn Tavenner (TAV'-eh-nur) updated the numbers at a hearing Thursday before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

As expected, the latest figures showed slippage. Insurers had said that about 10 percent of their new policyholders failed to seal the deal by paying their first month's premium.

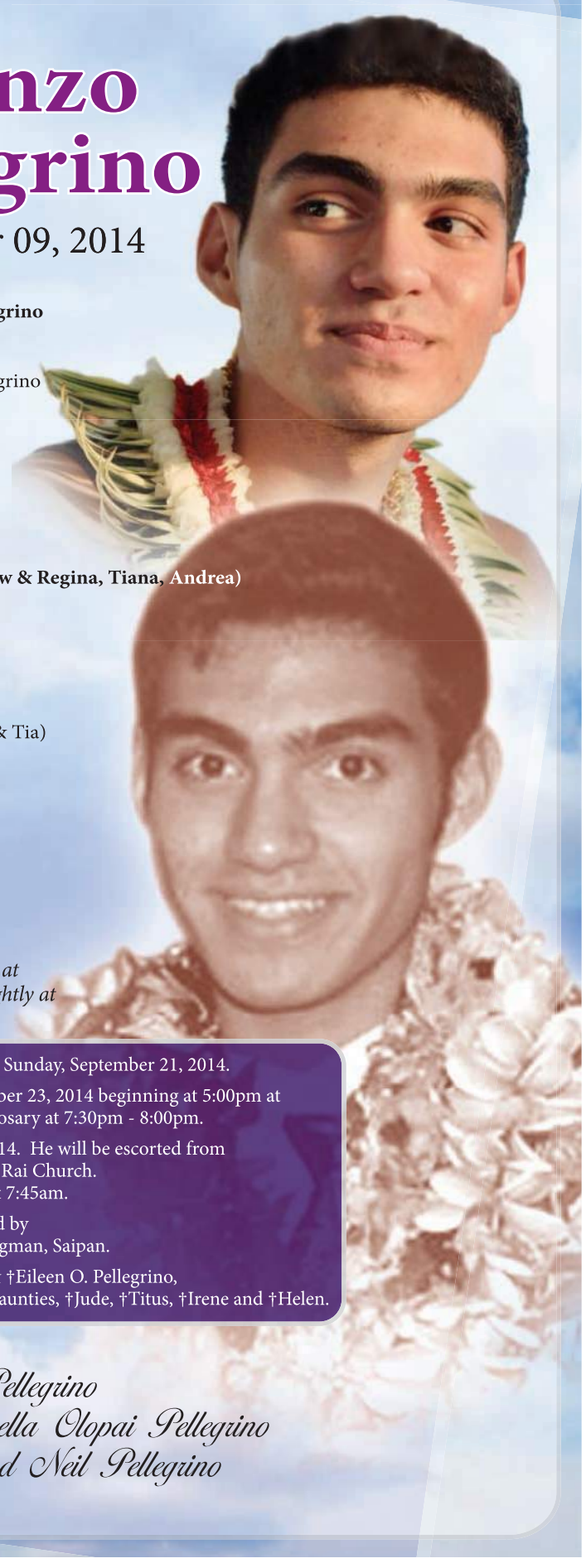
Tavenner, whose agency oversees HealthCare.gov, said the new count represents paying customers as of Aug. 15. She expects total enrollment to remain basically stable until the next open enrollment season starts Nov. 15.

After a chaotic launch, the numbers are still positive for the administration. Enrollment is projected to grow next year.

In Loving Memory of

†Abel Vincenzo Olopai Pellegrino

December 01, 1995 – September 09, 2014



In His New Life, He Now Joins His:

Parents : **†Anthony and †Eileen Olopai Pellegrino**
Grandparents : †Abel Rabauliman Olopai and †Carmen Kotomor Olopai
†Vincenzo and †Concetta Lena Pellegrino
Uncles and Aunties : †Titus K. Olopai, †Jude K. Olopai, †Helen K. Olopai, †Irene O. Borja, †Anne P. Ettaro

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:
Brothers : **Julian Apollonius O. Pellegrino**
Neil Pellegrino
Sisters : **Prunella Leimope O. Pellegrino**
Margaret (Miki) Pellegrino (Andrew & Regina, Tiana, Andrea)
Step Mom : **Mila Parchamento Pellegrino**
(Maridel, Madel, Mariefe, Fidel)

He will be greatly missed by his Uncles, Aunties, Relatives and Dear Friends:
†Titus (Cyrus)
†Jude (Carnesia & Ferdinand, Leina, Alana, Judy, Jude Jr. & Tia)
Shirley O. Calvo and Dan Santos (Richly & Kaimi)
Delfina O. and Michael Outland (Carmen Christine & Daniel, Christopher)
†Irene O. and Joseph F. Borja (Xavier and Joshua)
Jean O. and Mark Rabauliman (Sophia Miley)
Samuel and Jessie Pellegrino (Sam, Lee, Victoria, Valerie)
†Anne (Nancy & Greg, Linda)

Godparents : Judge Kenneth and Domie C. Govendo

Daily Mass of Intentions are being celebrated each morning at Kristo Rai Church at 6:00am and Holy Rosary is prayed nightly at 7:30pm at Kristo Rai Church.

His mortal remains will be arriving from Honolulu, Hawaii on Sunday, September 21, 2014.

Family Visitation / Public Viewing will be on Tuesday, September 23, 2014 beginning at 5:00pm at Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel followed by Holy Rosary at 7:30pm - 8:00pm.

Funeral Services will be held on Wednesday, September 24, 2014. He will be escorted from Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel at 7:00am to Kristo Rai Church.
Responso Service will be at 7:30am followed by Holy Rosary at 7:45am.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00am followed by Interment Service at Sanctuario PAX Memorial Gardens in Kagman, Saipan.

There, he will be at a peaceful rest joining his parents, †Tony & †Eileen O. Pellegrino, his grandparents †Abel & †Carmen K. Olopai, his uncles and aunties, †Jude, †Titus, †Irene and †Helen.

Please join us in prayers,

Mila Parchamento Pellegrino
Julian Olopai Pellegrino and Prunella Olopai Pellegrino
Margaret (Miki) Pellegrino and Neil Pellegrino
-- Family --

Life & Style

Lady Gaga: 'It's a very happy time in my life'

NEW YORK (AP)—After hip surgery and parting ways with her longtime manager, Lady Gaga says things are looking up.

"I've very centered now. I meditate a lot. I'm happy. I am more sober than I've ever been," the singer said interview this week. "It's a very happy time in my life."

Last year, Gaga parted ways with longtime manager Troy Carter, who helped the pop star achieve multiplatinum status, dominate the pop charts and win multiple Grammy Awards. She said she was overworked and that greed led to their split.

"Part of what was making my sort of artistic experience so unpleasant was that I felt that I was not able to truly freely fly as an artist," she said. "In some ways my talents were not being used to their full potential."

Gaga says part of her happier state of mind comes from working with Tony Bennett on the album "Cheek to Cheek," out on Tuesday.

The 28-year-old is currently on an international tour that wraps Nov. 24 in Paris. Calling from Istanbul, she spoke with The Associated Press about being unhappy, letting go of her manager, her under-selling "ARTPOP" album and performing in Tel Aviv.

AP: Did your disagreements with management affect the making of "ARTPOP"?

Gaga: It certainly affected my mind during "ARTPOP." I would have to say that whole situation had less to do with creativity differences and more to do with me really needing some time from myself to be creative. My schedule was way too difficult, I was not able to keep up and my whole business became very focused on making as much money as possible as quickly as possible, which is really not where my heart is. My integrity as a musician is so much more important to me than money. ... While I was making "ARTPOP," I was very tired. I'm actually very proud of "ARTPOP." As much as it's had a lot of criticism, I think a lot of that had to with where I am in my career, I've been on top for a long time, I think it's the nature of this industry—we love to build them up to tear them down.

AP: You sound like you're in a good place. Is that spilling over to the new music you're creating?

Gaga: It is in the very super early stages. I'm always writing music. I was up all the other night here in Istanbul writing and they had a lovely piano in my room and I was so excited, especially when I get to pay a real stringed piano, not an electronic one, that always makes me happy. I've been writing some records that I really sort of surprised at myself. I have a lot of pain built over the past few years. It was very difficult being on the road for this "Born This Way Ball" without having a full, proper team around me. I was going through a lot of pain with my body that led to the hip surgery. I call it the "Pain of fame." ...Your life changes a lot and the people that around you, they change too. Money makes people crazy and they see your life change and all of the luxuries and the things that come with becoming a star and they think, "I've known her my whole life ... or I've been here this whole time, I deserve all of that too."

AP

In this Jan. 19, 2014 file photo, Lady Gaga arrives to attend the Atelier Versace Spring-Summer 2014 Haute Couture fashion collection, presented in Paris.

AP: Other singers have backed out of performing in Tel Aviv. How did you make the decision to perform there this week?

Gaga: I was very confident based on my relationships with lots of internal, political people. We're very lucky to have great relationships with the White House. They let us know it would be very safe while we were there, and I hope to share that with the world so that they know it is safe to be in Tel Aviv right now. But I have to say, and I don't mean this as a suggestion that anything bad would have happened, but I'm a gypsy and I live around the world, so in my mind when I was staying in Tel Aviv—I say this on my song "Gypsy" on "ARTPOP": "Be my home just for the day"—that would have been my home while I was there and it was. ... I felt a beautiful energy when I was there.

AP: U2 released its new album alongside Apple, and Jay Z and Beyonce also released recent albums in unconventional ways. What do you think about that and do you think of innovative ways to release music when readying a project?

Gaga: I think honestly what we need to be doing, and this is my opinion, is instead of trying to find ways to trick the world into focusing on the album for a brief moment, I think that artists need to speak more about how media treats the artists and making the distinction between the celebrity and the artist, because everything is all in one pool now isn't it? We're all the same and they're some pretty terrible celebrities out there, let's be honest, right? People famous for no reason. So, I think the more the media can help us to support the artist and support music in a way that's maybe less critical for journalists that are not as knowledgeable about music and help to just spread the music and see the music as gift to the world.

I really believe that once the press becomes more kind I think a lot of the things in the universe are going to change. It makes me scared when I hear that there's pro-ISIS (Islamic State in Syria) rallies in America because I think that social media has created this sort of negative undertone in the universe. People feel that they can say or do anything; it makes them feel a sort of comfort when really it's just giving hatred a petri dish to fester. I know that was sort of a random answer for a question about album marketing. I really believe it lies in the hearts in the people that are writing about the music. The more we honor and support the artist, the more the art will live on forever. Otherwise, it's going to continue to be what I think pop music is now, which is sort of this giant tabloid. It's become quite trashy in my opinion.

Oculus unveils new prototype VR headset

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Oculus has unveiled a new prototype of its virtual reality headset. However, the VR company still isn't ready to release a consumer edition.

The hew headset intended for creators of VR experiences is nicknamed Crescent Bay and features a higher resolution and refresh rate, integrated headphones and 360-degree head tracking.

"That was not easy," Oculus CEO Brendan Iribe told the audience Saturday at the company's first-ever developers conference. "It's still not perfect. None of this is perfect yet, but it's much, much better."

Oculus' headset covers a user's eyes and can create immersive worlds that react to head movement.

The original prototype of the Oculus Rift headset was unveiled in 2012 and has received considerable attention from film and video game makers. Oculus released a second prototype headset to developers earlier this year. Iribe said 100,000 development kits have been shipped to 130 countries.

"I never expected it go this quickly," Iribe said. "None of us did."

AP

This image provided by Oculus shows a new prototype of its virtual reality headset.

The Irvine, California-based Oculus VR Inc. was acquired by Facebook earlier this year for $2 billion. Iribe said Oculus' staff has doubled in the six months since the acquisition.

"We're really spiriting toward the consumer version," he said.

Oculus recently teamed up with Samsung to introduce Gear VR, a $200 headset with a slot for using the Galaxy Note 4 smartphone as a VR display.

Over the past two years, Oculus' technology has been demonstrated at events like San Diego Comic-Con and the Electronic Entertainment Expo with interactive experiences that recreate scenes from the "X-Men" and "Pacific Rim" films and thrust users into an intergalactic dogfight in the game "EVE: Valkyrie."

Iribe reiterated several times during his talk at the Oculus Connect conference that creating a sense of presence would be integral for the widespread adoption of VR technology, which continues to leave some users feeling queasy despite Oculus' strides in creating lower latency and more realistic imagery inside the goggles.

Craig Ferguson plays it loose with new game show

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Craig Ferguson approached his first TV game show host's job with a subversive attitude. Then came the simple matter of his wardrobe for "Celebrity Name Game."

Ferguson

"I thought, 'I'm not going to wear a suit. I'm going to break that rule,'" Ferguson said. Wrong decision, he quickly realized, after taping the first few episodes of the syndicated daytime show debuting Monday.

"When I watched the shows back, I couldn't tell who was in charge," he said.

On came the business suit, fitted over the sly, irreverent style that his nighttime fans know from CBS' "The Late Late Show with Craig Ferguson," which began airing in 2005.

He wouldn't have tackled a game show without the opportunity of making it his own, Ferguson said.

"I liked this one because the format was loose and it left a lot of room for playing around and improvisation," he said. "And it's a new format, which meant that people weren't in love with the game itself and wouldn't get mad at me if I started messing around with it."

The challenge, Ferguson said, is to mess around while still observing the rules of the game. He's getting the hang of it as he tapes 180 episodes in a three-month production window, with hopes that the show is renewed so he can do more mischief.

Courteney Cox is confident he's right for the job. The "Cougartown" and former "Friends" star is an executive producer on the show along with her ex-husband, David Arquette.

"Craig is the perfect host," Cox said. "He is hilarious, irreverent and so spontaneous. He is unflappable and really enjoys himself, which is contagious for everyone around him."

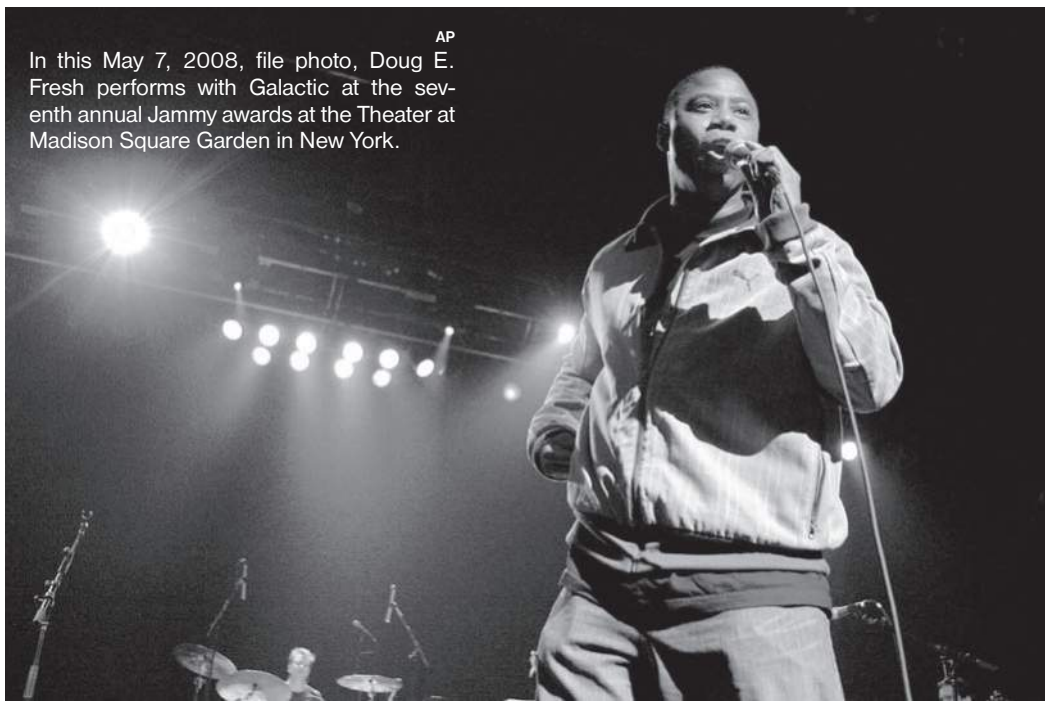
The show, based on the board game Identity Crisis, pairs celebrities with contestants to figure out—using improvised clues—the names of actors, singers, athletes, politicians and other famous folk.

Celebrity guests include Sheryl Crow, Vivica A. Fox, Billy Gardell, Lisa Kudrow, Darren Criss, Peter Facinelli, Tony Hale and Mena Suvari. Cox and Arquette also step in front of the camera.

There are other big names involved with "Celebrity Name Game": co-producers FremantleMedia North America ("American Idol," "The Price is Right") and Debmar-Mercury, the Lionsgate subsidiary that distributes Fremantle-produced "Family Feud."

Debmar-Mercury proposed the "Celebrity Name Game" project to Fremantle following the well-received launch of "Family Feud," said Thom Beers, CEO of Fremantle's U.S. arm.

Doug E Fresh highlights BET Hip-Hop awards



AP

In this May 7, 2008, file photo, Doug E. Fresh performs with Galactic at the seventh annual Jammy awards at the Theater at Madison Square Garden in New York.

ATLANTA (AP)—With a picture of his mother on a large screen behind him, Doug E Fresh struggled to complete his sentence. The rapper dubbed "The Human Beat Box" choked up and shed tears as he received the "I Am Hip-Hop Award" at the ninth BET Hip-Hop Awards on Saturday.

Fresh eventually told the crowd that his mother, who had Alzheimer's disease, died five months ago.

"I have to acknowledge her," Fresh said at the taped award show at the Boisfeuillet Jones Atlanta Civic Center. "I want to thank this woman and hip-hop. If it wasn't for hip-hop, I don't know where I would be."

He also thanked those who helped him throughout his career, from Slick Rick to his group the Get Fresh Crew.

The show airs Oct. 14.

Fresh became known for imitating drums and creating special effects using his mouth and a microphone. After his speech, Fresh performed one of his hits, "La Di Da Di" with the show's host, Snoop Dogg.

"He's the definition of moving the crowd," Ludcaris said during a video that paid homage to Fresh.

DJ Mustard won Producer of the Year, and Future's song "Move That Dope" took home Best Club Banger award. The most applause came after a recorded freestyle featuring Kanye West, Common, Big Sean and Pusha T.

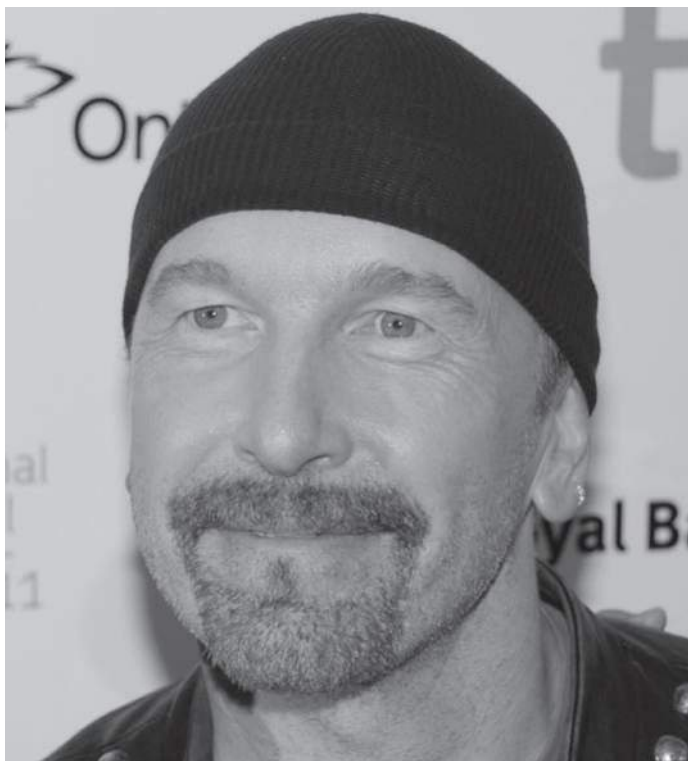
Many of the other awards will be announced at a later date. Rapper Drake received the most nominations with eight. Jay Z, Pharrell and Future each scored six nominations.

The parents of Mike Brown, an unarmed young black man who was killed by a white police officer in Ferguson, Missouri, stood on stage with Common after he finished his songs with Jay Electronica. There was moment of silence and the crowd raised both their hands in remembrance of Brown.

Snoop Dogg showed charisma throughout the night and performed skits featuring Nia Long. He also brought back his YouTube network called GGN (Double G News), interviewing rapper French Montana and Mimi Faust of Love & Hip-Hop: Atlanta.

Singer Brandy performed "I Wanna Be Down" with guest appearances from Queen Latifah, MC Lyte and Yo-Yo. Rapper T.I. took the stage with Young Thug, performing "About the Money."

U2 guitarist gets boost in bid for Malibu mansions



AP

In this Sept. 8, 2011 file photo, U2 guitarist The Edge, whose given name is David Evans, attends the opening night gala screening of 'From The Sky Down' at Roy Thompson Hall during the Toronto International Film Festival in Toronto.

MALIBU, Calif. (AP)—The guitarist for U2 finally has an edge in getting his long-planned compound of mansions built in the mountains above Malibu.

The California Coastal Commission staff reached a settlement agreement Friday with the David Evans, better known as The Edge, that would allow a downsized version of the project that was objected to by neighbors and environmentalists.

Evans has tried since 2006 to build five mansions on 150 acres overlooking the Pacific Ocean.

"From Day 1, I had told these guys that the one way to get to approval" was to make these changes, said Jack Ainsworth, the commission's senior deputy director. "And here we are back at that same place many years later."

The project still needs approval by the full commission, which is scheduled to vote next month.

"It's not a slam dunk by any means," Ainsworth the Los Angeles Times (http://lat.ms/1BVTfBt).

Backers of the project sued the commission after staff rejected plans in February 2011.

Neighbors had complained the project would ruin their views, and environmentalists said it would harm habitat. The commission staff said the homes would mar an undeveloped ridgeline visible from the coast and destroy vegetation.

The staff also asserted that Evans attempted to circumvent environmental rules by submitting five applications under different corporate names.

Lobbyists for Evans unsuccessfully pushed a bill in Sacramento that would have made it easier to develop the parcel. A Senate committee rejected the bill after environmentalists said it was a power grab by developers and special interests

Actress detained by police refuses to apologize

AP

Actress Daniele Watts and Brian Lucas speak during an interview with KABC-TV in Los Angeles, Sunday, Sept. 14, 2014.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—An actress who was detained by Los Angeles police is refusing to apologize for claiming race played a role in the incident, despite calls from local civil rights leaders.

Daniele Watts issued a statement late Friday through her publicist after civil rights activists demanded that she apologize for suggesting she was handcuffed for kissing her white boyfriend in public.

Watts and boyfriend Brian Lucas were questioned last week by officers investigating a report of lewd conduct in a parked car. Watts, who is black, refused to provide identification. She was briefly handcuffed until police identified her.

The incident went viral after she and Lucas claimed on their Facebook pages that the detention reflected racial profiling.

Earl Ofari Hutchinson, who initially rallied behind the actress, said she "cried wolf" in this instance.

"I was one that was very outspoken about it," he told reporters. "We take racial profiling very seriously. It's not a play thing. It's not trivial."

News about cheating boyfriend is an unwelcome revelation

DEAR ABBY: What are the ethics in outing a cheater? Someone I know has been cheated on by her boyfriend for two years—about as long as she has been with him. I know this because the woman he has been cheating with is someone I know.

Last week, I told the girl her boyfriend has been cheating. Now I am suddenly a pariah and outcast. I felt she had the right to know, but was I wrong? Should I not have told her?

ANNOYED IN CHICAGO

DEAR ANNOYED: In this age of social diseases, I don't think it's wrong to tell someone that a boyfriend/girlfriend is cheating so he or she can be tested. However, as you have discovered, doing it is risky.

There's a saying, "Don't shoot the messenger," that's been around forever. It implies that a person who delivers unwelcome news will be blamed for it. While you and I would want to be told that we were being betrayed, obviously, your former friend didn't, which is why you're being punished.

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend and I live in a duplex. We manage it, live in the lower unit and have three tenants upstairs.

One of them, whose bedroom is directly above ours, recently got a girlfriend. Aside from some loud video game- playing, he was always the quietest guy and has never been disruptive. But since he and this girl got together, they have been disturbing the entire house with their noisy lovemaking. It starts with a few bangs against the wall that become constant, and then the screams start.

I have no idea how to approach this respectfully and professionally. Please give me your thoughts.

BOTHERED IN BOZEMAN, MONT.

DEAR BOTHERED: Write the tenant a short letter explaining that there is now a noise problem that didn't exist before. Explain that the screams of ecstasy have awakened you and your boyfriend more than once, and ask him to "lower the volume." If an accommodation can't be reached, the lovebirds might want to consider moving to a place of their own.

DEAR ABBY: I have been frugal all my life. I have managed to accumulate a cushion should I become ill or need money for emergencies.

My oldest daughter is the exact opposite. She makes stupid financial decisions and has lost thousands of dollars. She recently called, begging me to get her out of a financial jam she has gotten herself into. I refused because the amount she needs would cost me almost all of my savings.

Now my other children have stopped speaking to me. They say I should give her the money. What are your thoughts on this?]

PRUDENT MOM IN FLORIDA

DEAR PRUDENT MOM: My thoughts are the same as yours. If your other children are determined that their sister should be bailed out, then they should pool their money and give it to her. But for you to give her your life savings with no guarantee that it will be repaid would be a bad financial decision on your part. I hope you won't allow yourself to be blackmailed into what could literally be sacrificing your future.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

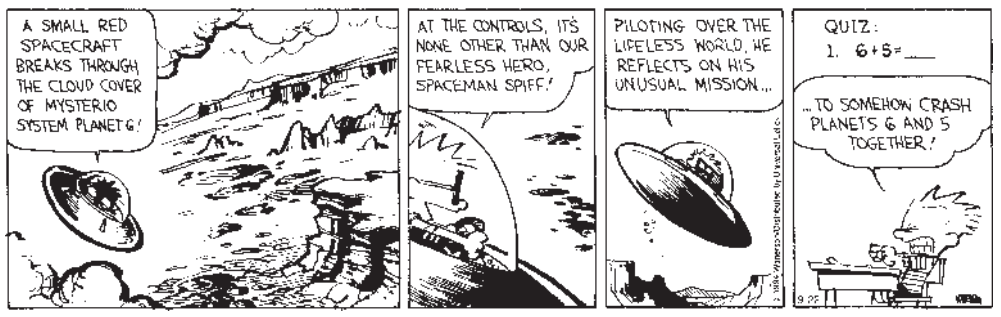
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

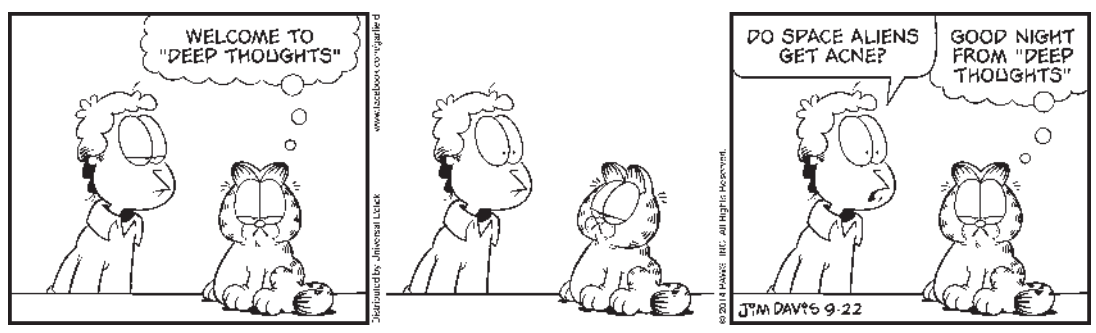
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


A SMALL RED SPACECRAFT BREAKS THROUGH THE CLOUD COVER OF MYSTERIO SYSTEM PLANET G!
AT THE CONTROLS, IT'S NONE OTHER THAN OUR FEARLESS HERO, SPACEMAN SPIFF!
PILOTING OVER THE LIFELESS WORLD, HE REFLECTS ON HIS UNUSUAL MISSION...
QUIZ: 1. 6+5=___
...TO SOMEHOW CRASH PLANETS 6 AND 5 TOGETHER!

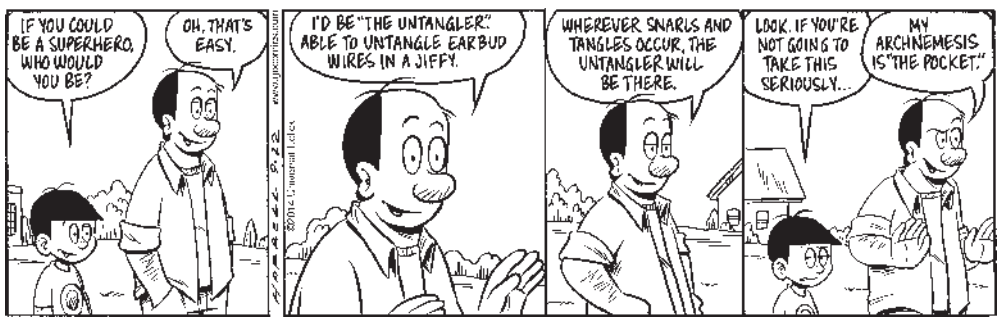
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


IF YOU COULD BE A SUPERHERO, WHO WOULD YOU BE?
OH, THAT'S EASY.
I'D BE "THE UNTANGLER." ABLE TO UNTANGLE EARBUD WIRES IN A JIFFY.
WHEREVER SNARLS AND TANGLES OCCUR, THE UNTANGLER WILL BE THERE.
LOOK, IF YOU'RE NOT GOING TO TAKE THIS SERIOUSLY...
MY ARCHNEMESIS IS "THE POCKET."

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

GREAT! OUR NEW FRIDGE STOPPED WORKING! NOW WHAT DO WE DO?!
DON'T SWEAT IT. WE'LL JUST CALL SMEARS CUSTOMER SERVICE. I'M SURE WE'LL GET PROMPT, COURTEOUS SERVICE.
HEY, WHERE'S ALL THAT SNICKERING COMING FROM?
9-22

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

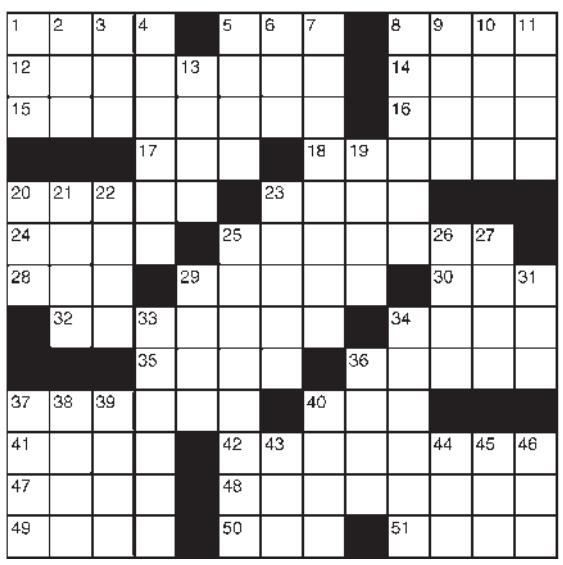
ACROSS
1 Slightly open
5 Tweak the soundtrack
8 Pageant contestant's wear
12 Panthers' home
14 Choir voice
15 Not merely memorable
16 Deposits
17 Tit for —
18 Storage area
20 Wan
23 Deck in the ring
24 Afterward
25 Ontario city
28 Actress Farrow
29 Plastic-wrap name
30 "Alley —"
32 Light plane
34 Lounge about
35 Prolonged sleep
36 Passenger
37 Spanish pre-euro money
40 Have a bug
41 "American —"
42 Latino
47 Copter's cousin
48 Caller's prefix
49 Proofreading command
50 Meadow
51 Old woman's home?

DOWN
1 German interjection
2 — alai
3 "Error" has three
4 Mean
5 Grime
6 Singular prefix
7 Card game like chemin de fer
8 Old West pub
9 Word of woe
10 Eyelid problem
11 Emcee
13 Temporary gift
19 "Lolita" actress Sue
20 $ dispenser
21 Boat
22 Get wind of
23 "M*A*S*H" locale
25 Agra attraction
26 Frog's cousin
27 Leak slowly
29 Location
31 Apiece
33 Leopard-like cat
34 Whitman's "When — Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd"
36 Strahan co-host
37 Swine
38 Fix texts
39 Angry
40 On the briny
43 Anger
44 Japanese theater
45 Altar affirmative
46 Bee follower

Solution time: 26 mins.

C	H	A	R	■	A	S	H	■	C	G	L	C
L	O	V	E	■	P	O	I	■	P	E	E	L
O	M	E	N	■	I	N	C	■	A	I	O	M
T	E	R	E	S	A	■	K	O	L	A	■	■
■	■	■	W	I	N	D	O	W	S	H	O	P
M	A	M	E	T	■	E	R	E	■	E	K	E
A	R	C	D	■	F	L	Y	■	B	A	R	E
I	N	N	■	O	O	H	■	R	A	D	A	R
D	O	C	R	P	R	I	Z	E	S	■	■	■
■	■	P	U	T	S	■	C	V	C	R	D	O
G	O	C	P	■	U	R	N	■	H	O	O	P
P	A	L	E	■	R	O	E	■	I	S	L	E
S	K	Y	C	■	E	N	D	■	T	C	E	D

Last Friday's answer 9-22



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Bonnie Hunt, 53; Scott Baio, 54; Andrea Bocelli, 56; Joan Jett, 56.

Happy Birthday: Get everything in order. Don't let uncertainty or confusion lead to procrastination. The less you have hanging over your head, the better you will do when faced with important decisions. Trust in your intuition, not in hearsay. It's your responsibility to look out for your interests and to maintain a practical path that will protect you from outside influences. Your numbers are 7, 9, 20, 24, 33, 37, 46.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Your ability to embrace change and turn whatever is going on to your advantage will lead to a new beginning. Offers made may cause uncertainty at first, but once you weigh the pros and cons, you will know exactly how to react. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't count on others to do things for you. Let your past performance speak for you. Make changes based on experience, fair play and an opportunity to move in a direction that promises prosperity and satisfaction. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Stand tall and refuse to let what others say or do bother you. Anger never solves anything, but working toward your goals does. Prepare to make the changes that will make you feel more at ease personally and professionally. ✪✪

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Make positive changes to your environment and do what you can to cut your overhead. Not everyone will like or approve of the changes you implement, but you have to do whatever works for you and eases your stress. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Jumping from one thing to another will make those around you nervous. The ease at which you carry out your plans will help you gain respect. Be wary of someone who might be secretly trying to take advantage of your stamina. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You will face opposition and are best to deal with it in a positive, patient and practical manner. Getting angry will not solve anything and will probably lead to lies, deception and disillusionment. Work on self-improvement, not trying to change others. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Legal, financial or medical matters should be dealt with personally. Do not let anyone handle matters that can have an impact on your future. Do what you can to protect your home and your family's interests. Get your facts straight. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Take a position and follow through with your belief and you will achieve great satisfaction from lending a helping hand. Keep a close watch on authoritative institutions, agencies or people to ensure you aren't being cheated or manipulated. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Follow through with your plans, but don't feel the need to take on someone else's chores or demands. Emotional blackmail is apparent and must be kept in perspective to avoid being taken for granted. Use your head and do what's best for you. ✪✪

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Avoid being impulsive when engaging in chatter with friends, relatives or peers. You are best to focus on personal and financial self-improvements that will lead to a better lifestyle or environment. Protect your assets, possessions and your reputation. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): A financial change is heading your way. You can make career moves that will improve your status quo and lead to greater opportunities down the road. Open up to business or personal partners and you will get the go-ahead. ✪✪✪

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Keep life simple and avoid engaging in disagreements or risky emotional, physical or financial situations. Listen carefully to what others say and offer. There will be underlying motives that you are best to address before you make a decision. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are entertaining and charming. You are fastidious and appreciative.

Eugenia's Web sites: *eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, eugenialast.com/blog/ for Eugenia's blog and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

6		2				7		8
	4			8			9	
		9	7	1	5	4		
		8	6		4	2		
	9	4				1	8	
		6	8		1	5		
		7	1	3	9	8		
	8			6			7	
9		3				6		5

Difficulty Level ★ 9/22

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's SUDOKU Answer

2	7	8	6	1	9	3	4	5
4	6	5	3	8	7	2	9	1
9	1	3	5	2	4	6	7	8
8	2	7	1	3	6	4	5	9
5	4	1	9	7	2	8	3	6
6	3	9	4	5	8	7	1	2
3	8	2	7	9	1	5	6	4
1	5	6	8	4	3	9	2	7
7	9	4	2	6	5	1	8	3

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

TOP OF THE CHARTS Solution: 10 letters

T	S	E	L	G	N	I	S	M	U	B	L	A	C	C
O	W	E	R	N	E	G	O	S	P	E	L	N	O	A
P	E	B	G	N	I	D	N	E	R	T	O	N	M	T
P	I	Y	R	T	N	U	O	C	E	V	T	U	P	E
E	V	R	E	C	O	R	D	R	E	E	I	A	I	G
R	H	Y	T	H	M	B	N	L	M	S	C	L	L	O
S	T	S	I	T	R	A	S	P	M	G	K	L	A	R
P	F	E	N	O	T	N	O	E	L	N	E	Y	T	I
F	O	E	D	I	V	R	A	D	I	O	T	S	I	E
E	L	T	V	T	A	S	Ⓗ	D	F	S	S	T	O	S
M	K	E	A	R	S	O	Ⓞ	A	T	E	E	I	N	F
A	S	E	Y	L	U	I	Ⓣ	N	C	L	I	H	K	A
L	A	C	I	S	S	A	L	C	L	P	V	C	L	N
E	S	A	E	L	E	R	U	E	O	B	O	O	K	S
E	C	H	A	R	T	S	S	P	A	R	M	E	N	R

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Albums, Alternative, Annually, Artists, Atop, Books, Categories, Charts, Classical, Compilation, Contemporary, Country, Dance, Fans, Female, Film, Folk, Genre, Gospel, Hits, Hot, House, List, Men, Movies, Novels, Pop, Radio, Rap, Record, Release, Rhythm, Rock, Sell, Singles, Songs, Success, Tickets, Tone, Toppers, Trending, Urban, Video, Views

Last Saturday's Answer: Bellessima

To purchase **WONDERWORD** books for the holidays, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

2-All Around Beautician. Modern Hair Salon & Barber Shop. San Jose. Call Mau at 234-1440.

---

1 General Manager: $1,200-1,760/mo. Bachelor's degree & 4 yrs experience required. Must report to overseas owner in Korean. Email resume to jnd@hanmisaipan.com.

---

1 Store Manager: $1,100/mo. At least 2 years of experience as a clothing store manager is required. Korean speaking and writing fluency is required. Email resume to treasure@hanmisaipan.com.

---

1 Piano teacher: $1,800/mo. Bachelor's degree in music education and at least five years of experience required. Email resume to yonsei@hanmisaipan.com.

Scuba Diving Instructor: $6.05/hr. Scuba diving instructor certification and fluency in Korean required. Must be willing to live and work on Tinian. E-mail resume to blueocean@hanmisaipan.com.
Sales Representative: $6.05/hr. Fluency in Korean required. Must be willing to live and work on Tinian. E-mail resume to blueocean@hanmisaipan.com.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

MUSICIAN:
Five (5) years minimum experience as a professional musician. Must have the ability to sing, harmonize and play as a lead guitarist. Be able to perform several musical styles/music genre and is competent in the use of musical sequencer / PA systems. Experience as a sound technician is an advantage.

SALES ASSOCIATE:
Three (3) years' work experience and with previous retail experience preferred. Be able to perform duties with minimum supervision and be able to work on irregular hours, such as shifts, holiday and weekends. Candidate must be knowledgeable in accounting basics and POS system. Ability to speak and understand foreign languages in addition to English is most desirable.

Email resume to
PIAO INVESTMENT CORPORATION
mapagahes@gmail.com

MAKE-A-WISH
Visit us at 865 S. Marine Dr.,
Orlean Pacific Plaza Ste. 104 Tamuning, Guam 96913
Tel: (671) 649-WISH • Fax: (671) 646-6293
Email: mawfguam@ite.net • www.wish.org
Office Hours: 8:30am-5:30pm, M-F daily
Saipan Tribune

Nurturing Transformative and Sustainable Communities (NUTESE)
Is looking for an
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Minimum Requirements:
- More than 3 years of victim services in the field of violence against women
- Bachelor Degree or related field
- Must have knowledge and experiences in planning and conducting program evaluation
- With knowledge and experience in writing and processing a federal grant request
- Must have a CNMI driver's License and have their own transportation
- Favorably multilingual including language spoken in CNMI

Interested applicant, please e-mail your resume at nuteseboard@gmail.com

PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN
is inviting qualified, U.S. workers to apply for the following position:

STOREROOM CLERK
Minimum three (3) months of work related experience, preferably in Storeroom, Purchasing or Procurement in a hotel setting; Basic computer knowledge and skills are required; Knowledge in MAS 90's Inventory Module is preferred. Responsible for receiving, issuances and monitoring storeroom inventory. Job requires a CNMI Driver's License; Must be able to lift an item weighing approximately 50-75 lbs; Must speak, read, and comprehend the English language; Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

Applications must be received by 5:00pm on Tuesday, September 23rd, 2014.
PIC applications are available at the PIC Security Desk
by the Loading Dock/Employee Entrance.
Incomplete applications will NOT be accepted or considered.
PIC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

JC MARKETING, INC. (SAIPAN)
A company oriented in Sales and Marketing of industrial products is seeking an experienced

Business Development Associate

Applicants must be experienced, have a good verbal and written communication skills; ability to work independently and effectively. Reliable transportation, valid Driver's License and Police Clearance required.

Please email your resume at:
adminspn@jcmarketinginc.com
or fax at 1-670-235-6336

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Realty Management Services

Fina Sisu Terraces
Small 1-BR, 1-BTH. Unit approximately 284 sq.ft. **$250**/month.
2-BR, 1-BTH. **$350-$550**/month. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted.

LNH Apartments
(Lower Navy Hill)
Small 3BR & 2BTH. Unit approximately 600 sq.ft. EPA Solar Water Heater.
$450/month

Hilltop Condominium*
(San Vicente) Unit approximately 1,024sq/ft Luxury 2BR & 2BTH Apt with private balcony & majestic view. **$700**/month
Luxury 1BR & 1BTH approximately 600 sq/ft **$500**/month
***Wi-Fi & nighttime security excluded**

FEATURES:
- **Fully Furnished**
- **Back-up Generator**
- **Air-conditioning in all rooms**
- **FREE WiFi**
- **Laundry Area**
- **Nighttime Security**
- **Ample Parking**
- **24hr water**

Please visit our website at www.saipan-properties.com Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Saipan Community School
Is looking for
One (1) Math and Science Teacher
for our Jr. High students.

He/She **MUST** have the following requirements;
- Bachelor's degree in Education
- Teaching certificate and teaching Math & Science experience
- US citizen or permanent resident
- Share equal Christian Faith
- Must be willing to start immediately if hired

Bring your resume to SCS office in Susupe. No phone call please.

FIESTA Resort & SPA SAIPAN
A TanHoldings Company
is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following position:

(1) Electrician
Qualification: 3 years progressive work experience as electrician in industrial, commercial and residential building electrical works. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

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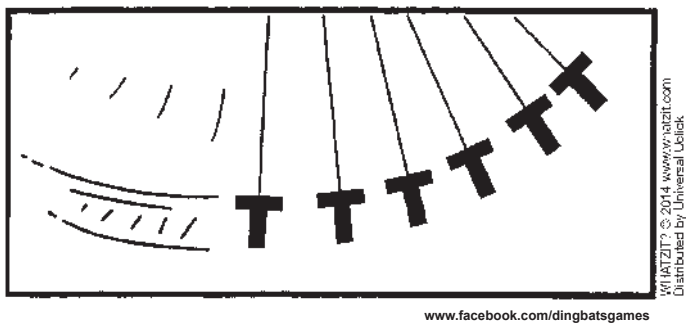

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Tigers win appeal, top KC to boost AL Central lead

KANSAS CITY, Missouri (AP)— Max Scherzer and the Detroit Tigers won their appeal on a wild play, and Joe Nathan escaped a ninth-inning jam to hold off the Kansas City Royals 3-2 Saturday and boost their AL Central lead.

The Tigers increased their edge to 2 1/2 games over the Royals. Kansas City fell into a tie for the second wild-card spot with Seattle, which played later at Houston.

Detroit, seeking its fourth straight division title, has won 13 of 18 against the Royals this year, including eight of nine at Kauffman Stadium.

Scherzer (17-5) outpitched James Shields (14-8). The Royals put two runners on against Nathan, but he retired Nori Aoki and pinch-hitter Raul Ibanez on grounders for his 33th save in 40 tries.

It was 1-all in the sixth when a line drive and a wild throw led to an appeal toss and a pair of umpire discussions that wound up ruling a Royals runner had left third base too soon.

AP

Kansas City Royals shortstop Alcides Escobar (2) gets out of the way as center fielder Jarrod Dyson (1) catches a fly ball in front of Alex Gordon (4) off the bat of Detroit Tigers designated hitter Victor Martinez (41) during the seventh inning of a baseball game Saturday, Sept. 20, 2014, in Kansas City, Mo.

Cubs 8, Dodgers 7

In Chicago, Chris Coghlan hit two homers, including the go-ahead two-run drive off Brian Wilson in the eighth inning, and the Cubs rallied to beat the Dodgers.

The Dodgers were looking to build on a 3 1/2-game lead over San Francisco in the NL West after clinching a playoff spot for the fifth time in nine years on Friday.

Instead Los Angeles blew a five-run lead and wasted a pair of homers and five RBIs by Adrian Gonzalez.

The Dodgers were up 7-2 in the seventh, but the bullpen couldn't hold the lead.

J.P. Howell gave up an RBI single to Anthony Rizzo and a three-run homer to Arismendy Alcantara, making it a one-run game.

Wilson (2-4) came on in the eighth and things just got worse from there.

Blue Jays 6, Yankees 3

In New York, Jose Bautista hit his eighth homer of the year against New York, Marcus Stroman pitched six gritty innings and the Blue Jays ended a season-worst six-game losing streak to beat the Yankees and keep their faint playoff hopes alive.

With eight games to play for both teams, Toronto is 5 1-2 games back for an AL wild card and the Yankees are 4 1-2. Seattle and Cleveland all played later Saturday night.

Danny Valencia hit a go-ahead, two-run double, helping hand the Yankees their first loss of Derek Jeter's final homestand after two wins over Toronto.

With most of the 47,292 fans at Yankee Stadium standing and chanting "Der-ek Je-ter!" his every at-bat, the retiring captain doubled and singled for his third straight multi-hit game. He also scored his 1,920th run to pass suspended teammate Alex Rodriguez for ninth place on the career list.

Rockies 5, Diamondbacks 1

In Denver, Eddie Butler pitched six solid innings for his first major league win and the Rockies beat the Diamondbacks.

Corey Dickerson and Josh Rutledge homered for the Rockies, who have won five straight for the first time since June 11-15.

Butler (1-1) made his debut against the Los Angeles Dodgers on June 6 and went on the disabled list with right shoulder inflammation the next day. He made nine minor league rehab starts before getting the ball Saturday.

He made the most of it, allowing one run and five hits and giving the Rockies a glimpse into the future. Butler was Colorado's first-round pick in 2012 and has quickly moved through the organization.

Trevor Cahill (3-12) allowed five runs and 10 hits in five innings. He hasn't won since beating Miami on Aug. 15.

Phillies 3, Athletics 0

In Oakland, California, Jerome Williams beat the Athletics for the third time this season with three different teams, and Oakland missed an opportunity to extend its lead in the AL wild-card race with a loss to the Phillies.

Freddy Galvis hit a two-run homer in the seventh inning against Dan Otero (8-2). Marlon Byrd added an RBI single in the eighth.

The A's remained a half-game ahead of Kansas City for the top wild-card spot. The Royals lost 3-2 at home to Detroit earlier Saturday.

Williams (4-2) allowed four hits, struck out three and walked one in seven innings.

Brewers 1, Pirates 0

In Pittsburgh, Elian Herrera sprinted home on Logan Schafer's sacrifice fly in the ninth inning and the Milwaukee Brewers edged the Pittsburgh to tighten the race for the second National League wild-card spot.

The Brewers overcame the ejection of starting pitcher Matt Garza and pulled within 3 1/2 games of the Pirates. Pittsburgh had won five in a row.

Zach Duke (5-1), a former All-Star with the Pirates, picked up the victory after getting the final out of the eighth. Francisco Rodriguez worked a perfect ninth for his 43rd save of the season and 347th of his career, moving him into a tie with Randy Myers for 10th on the all-time list.

Herrera reached on a force-out off Mark Melancon (3-5) in the ninth and moved to third on Lyle Overbay's second double of the night. Herrera scored when Schafer's fly to left was just deep enough.

Padres 3, Giants 2

In San Diego, Andrew Cashner pitched brilliantly into the ninth inning and the San Diego Padres kept San Francisco from advancing on the NL West-leading Los Angeles Dodgers.

The Giants remain 3 1/2 games behind the Dodgers, who lost 8-7 to the Cubs. San Francisco remains one game ahead of Pittsburgh in the race for the top wild-card spot.

Cashner (5-7) took a two-hit shutout into the ninth before allowing Hunter Pence's 20th home run. Kevin Quackenbush got three outs for his fifth save.

Cashner hit his first career triple with one out in the fifth, the first triple by a big league pitcher this season, and bunted for a single in the sixth.

Yusmeiro Petit (5-5), who has taken Tim Lincecum's spot in the Giants' rotation, allowed two earned and four hits 5 1-3 innings.

Astros 10, Mariners 1

In Houston, Seattle starter Chris Young got hit hard and the Mariners missed a chance to move up in the AL playoff race, yielding five home runs in a loss to Houston.

The Mariners stayed one game behind AL wild-card leader Oakland and a half-game in back of Kansas City for the second slot.

Chris Carter and Alex Presley hit two-run homers and Matt Dominguez and Carlos Corporan added back-to-back solo shots. Jake Marisnick had a three-run homer in the seventh inning as the Astros snapped a four-game skid.

Young (12-9) was tagged for seven runs in three-plus innings.

Dallas Keuchel (12-9) pitched eight strong innings, and reached reached 200 innings in a season for the first time in his career.

Angels 8, Rangers 5

In Anaheim, California, Jered Weaver earned his AL-leading 18th victory, Albert Pujols reached the 100-RBI mark with a two-run homer and Mike Trout also hit a two-run shot to lead the Los Angeles Angels over Texas.

David Freese added a three-run homer in support of Weaver (18-8). Texas had won seven in a row.

Huston Street pitched a perfect ninth for his career-high 39th save as the AL West champion Angels kept their 2 1/2-game lead over Baltimore in the race for the best record in the majors.

Colby Lewis (10-14) took the loss. Adrian Beltre hit three doubles for Texas.

Indians 7, Twins 3

In Minneapolis, Yan Gomes homered and drove in four runs to help the Cleveland Indians advance in the AL wild-card race by beating Minnesota.

The Indians are 3 1/2 games out of the second wild-card spot after Oakland, Kansas City and Seattle all lost ahead of them earlier in the day.

The start of the game was delayed an hour because of rain.

Gomes, who had three hits, broke it open with a three-run homer off Trevor May (3-5) in the fifth inning.

T.J. House (4-3) got the win.

Cardinals 8, Reds 4

In St. Louis, Tony Cruz hit a three-run homer and the St. Louis Cardinals connected three times, beating Cincinnati and moving closer to their fourth straight playoff berth.

The Cardinals cut their magic number to one for clinching a postseason berth. The magic number is five for their second NL Central title in a row.

Kolten Wong and Randal Grichuk also homered as St. Louis won for the seventh time in eight games.

Cincinnati has lost six in row and been outscored 30-8 in that stretch.

Jason Motte (1-0) needed just three pitches and one out to earn the win.

Mike Leake (11-13) went five innings and allowed six runs.

Nationals 3, Marlins 2

In Miami, Ryan Zimmerman had two hits, including an RBI triple, in his return to the lineup and the Washington Nationals beat Miami.

Zimmerman, who missed 55 games because of a hamstring injury, had his run-scoring triple to key Washington's three-run seventh inning.

Jordan Zimmermann (13-5) gave up two runs and five hits over six innings. He struck out four and stayed in the game and finished the inning despite getting hit by a line drive from Casey McGehee to start the sixth.

Drew Storen gave up one-out singles to Marcel Ozuna and Justin Bour in the ninth before he retired pinch-hitter Garrett Jones on a game-ending double play for his ninth save in 12 opportunities.

Jarred Cosart (4-3) took the loss.

Orioles 7, Red Sox 2

In Baltimore, Adam Jones hit a pair of two-run homers and the Baltimore Orioles received another steady performance from right-hander Chris Tillman in a victory over Boston.

Tillman (13-5) gave up two runs in seven innings. He has allowed three runs or fewer in 20 straight starts.

Baltimore's likely starter in Game 1 of the playoffs, Tillman is 6-0 in 13 starts since July 12.

Jones connected against Ruby De La Rosa (4-8) in the third inning and Heath Hembree in the fifth. It was his sixth career two-homer game, the second this season. Christian Walker homered for Baltimore, his first in the majors.

David Ortiz hit his third homer in two games and No. 35 of the season. He has 466 for his career, passing Dave Winfield for 33rd place on the all-time list.

Mets 4, Braves 2

In Atlanta, the slumping Atlanta Braves were shut down by Jonathon Niese and lost the New York Mets, damaging their flickering playoff hopes.

Atlanta has lost seven of eight to drop to 4-13 in September.

Jonathon Niese (9-11) allowed two runs in 7 1-3 innings. Jenrry Mejia then worked the ninth for his 27th save in 30 chances.

Dilson Herrera and Curtis Granderson homered for New York.

Braves starter Mike Minor (6-12) left after one inning because of discomfort in his left shoulder.

Those 0-2 teams better get started now

By BARRY WILNER
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER

Those sputtering machines in New Orleans and Indianapolis had better fire up soon.

Like now.

It's somewhat stunning that the Saints and Colts, favorites to win their divisions, are 0-2.

At least Indy fell to a pair of top teams, Denver and Philadelphia. The Saints lost at Atlanta, blowing a big lead, and then at Cleveland—both on late field goals.

With Carolina already 2-0 in the NFC South and Houston at 2-0 in the AFC South, well, gentlemen, start your engines.

"We are trying to make sure we uncover every stone and look closely at how we can find ways to make the corrections and hopefully we can get that done this weekend," Saints coach Sean Payton said. "We just have to find a way to play our best game this weekend. It's important we do that, especially coming home."

All hope is not lost at 0-2, of course. Last year, the Panthers dropped their first two games and then won the division, even earning a first-round playoff bye. Three teams have won the Super Bowl after going 0-2. And since 1990, 23 teams lost their first two matches and wound up in the postseason.

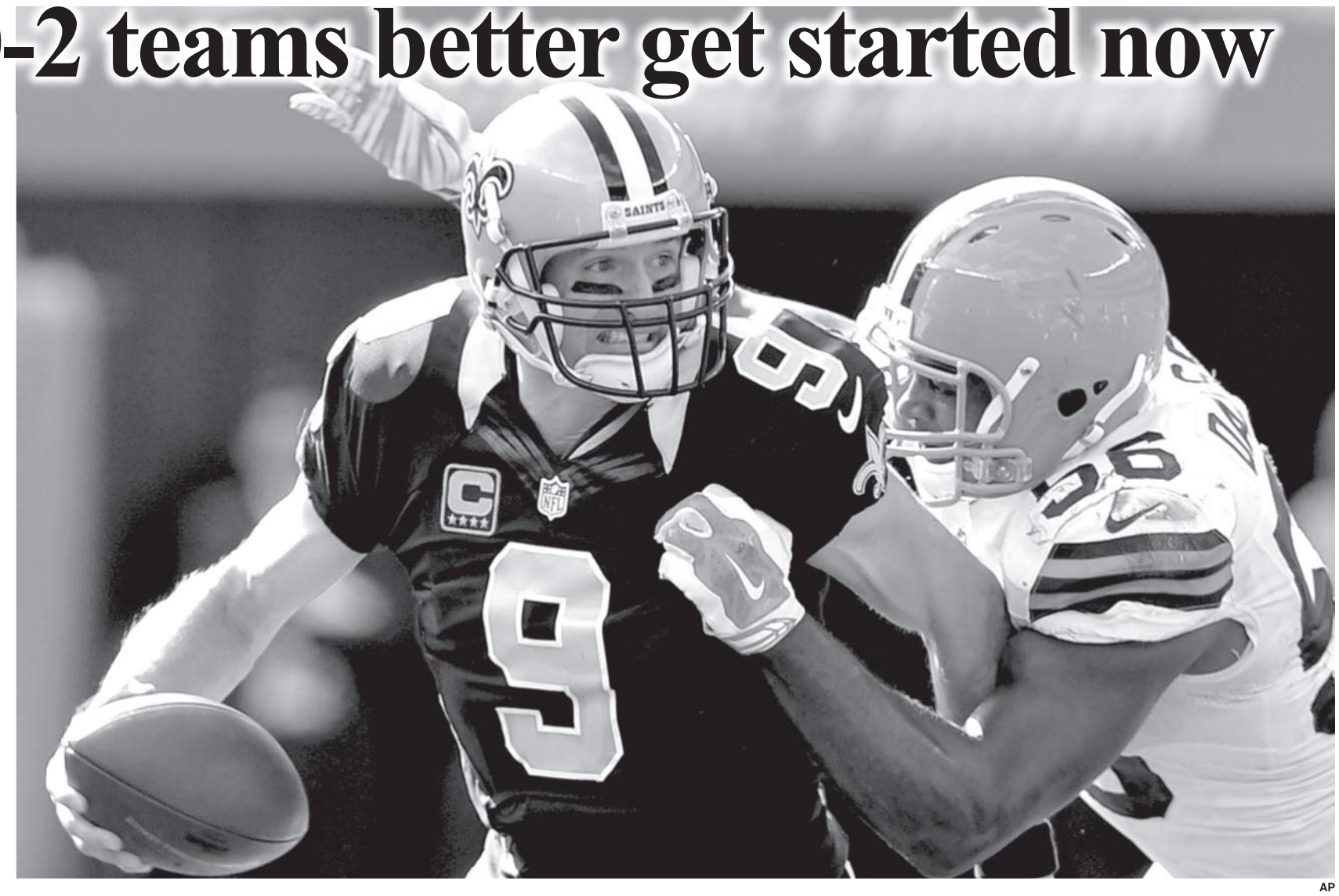
"You can point out every week if we did this, this and this we'd be 2-0," Colts coach Chuck Pagano said. "We have 14 games left and the only thing that matters right now is Jacksonville. ... The record is the record. We're not going to sit there and dwell on anything other than Jacksonville."

Week 3 began with an absolute rout in Atlanta, where the Falcons (2-1) beat Tampa Bay (0-3), 56-14. Matt Ryan threw for 286 yards and three touchdowns, Julio Jones hauled in nine passes for 161 yards and a pair of scores, and Devin Hester set an NFL record with his 20th return for a TD. Hester's runback of a punt covered 62 yards.

The spotlight game in Week 3, naturally, is the Super Bowl rematch between Denver and Seattle at CenturyLink Field. Bring your ear plugs.

Also Sunday, it's San Francisco at Arizona, San Diego at Buffalo, Green Bay at Detroit, Pittsburgh at Carolina, Baltimore at Cleveland, Washington at Philadelphia, Tennessee at Cincinnati, Oakland at New England, Houston at the New York Giants, Dallas at St. Louis and Kansas City at Miami.

On Monday night, Chicago is at the New York Jets.



AP

Cleveland Browns linebacker Karlos Dansby (56) sacks New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees in the fourth quarter of an NFL football game Sunday, Sept. 14, 2014, in Cleveland.

Minnesota (1-1) at New Orleans (0-2)

With Adrian Peterson inactive and the Vikings ranking last in passing offense, the Saints can have some confidence they will get off the schneid. But they need to show their defense can make plays down the stretch; it also ranks last against the pass.

Indianapolis (0-2) at Jacksonville (0-2)

Give Indy credit for being competitive. Now, it must close the deal. To do so, it might turn to Ahmad Bradshaw, who has had some strong moments at running back.

And like the Saints, the Colts struggled stopping the pass. Jacksonville, of course, has the NFL's lowest-ranked attack, playing directly into Indianapolis' hands.

Denver (2-0) at Seattle (1-1)

The first redux of the previous Super Bowl since the 1997 regular season and only the sixth ever. Peyton Manning once again is on a hot streak - his four consecutive games with at least three TD passes and no interceptions ties Tom Brady's mark - and he gets back Wes Welker from a drug suspension.

Denver has had close contests in its first two wins, and gets a Seahawks bunch that was beaten by a super-aggressive San Diego last week. But that was on the road, and no team has a bigger home-field edge than the champs.

San Francisco (1-1) at Arizona (2-0)

A victory by the Cardinals would stamp them as a true contender in the NFL's toughest division. The Niners have won the past four meetings and nine of 10, but come off blowing a big lead against Chicago and might be without tight end Vernon Davis.

Arizona beat the Giants with backup QB Drew Stanton. The 49ers aren't the Giants, and Carson Palmer's status is iffy.

San Diego (1-1) at Buffalo (2-0)

Teams traveling from the West Coast to the east tend to struggle, especially for 1 p.m. ET kickoffs. The one semi-exception is San Diego, which is 17-18 in such scenarios in the past 10 years. The Chargers come off a huge emotional victory against Seattle and tight end Antonio Gates looks unstoppable.

This isn't the usual visit to Buffalo and come away successful deal, though. The Bills have been more impressive than anyone expected, and with their sale soon to be approved, optimism reigns in Western New York.

Green Bay (1-1) at Detroit (1-1)

Detroit went from sensational to awful in a span of a week. Green Bay went the other way - but only after falling into a big hole against the Jets in Game 2. The Pack has won five of the past six meetings and has lost in Detroit only twice in the past decade.

This is the first of three straight division games for Green Bay, a chance to make some real early progress in the NFC North.

Chicago (1-1) at New York Jets (1-1), Monday night

When the Jets let off the gas after a 21-3 lead at Lambeau Field, they probably doomed themselves. Now they get a Bears team coming off an impressive upset win at San Francisco with a rally similar to the Packers' charge.

Chicago is banged up, but if it can get the right matchups for Brandon Marshall and Alshon Jeffery against New York's sieve of a secondary, watch out.

New York owns an odd double, leading the league in both rushing offense and rushing defense.

Pittsburgh (1-1) at Carolina (2-0)

The Steel Curtain has moved to Charlotte.

Carolina has yielded 21 points so far, and the way the Panthers shut down the Lions was impressive. Linebacker Luke Kuechly might be the best player in the NFL right now - on either side of the ball.

Pittsburgh, meanwhile, has been leaky on D and not nearly as efficient in its speedier offense as it hoped for. Opponents are running at will against the Steelers, which has to make Mean Joe Greene and Jack Lambert shudder.

Baltimore (1-1) at Cleveland (1-1)

The gutsy performance by the Browns, and particularly homegrown QB Brian Hoyer, in last week's last-second victory over New Orleans drew plenty of attention. A victory in this one would be their second straight over the Ravens following an 11-game slide.

Baltimore knows the specter of the Ray Rice domestic violence case won't fade for a while. But the Ravens did come through last Thursday in the midst of the turmoil, beating archrival Pittsburgh.

Washington (1-1) at Philadelphia (2-0)

Everyone associated with the Redskins expects WR DeSean Jackson to play, though he left early last week against the Jaguars with a shoulder issue. Jackson certainly doesn't want to miss a matchup with the team that released him last March. Coach Jay Gruden is hopeful.

"He's a reckless player, a fast player, and if he's not 100 percent he's not worth being out there," Gruden said. "But he's a tough kid. I think he'll get it right."

Robert Griffin III won't be around after dislocating his left ankle. Kirk Cousins, strong in relief last week, will start.

Philly has gotten it right in the second half of both its victories, the first team to rally from 14 points behind in each of its first two games to win. Coach Chip Kelly's emphasis on speed and conditioning has shown.

Tennessee (1-1) at Cincinnati (2-0)

Despite a rash of injuries in Week 2, the Bengals easily handled Atlanta. A key here could be if star receiver A.J. Green is recovered from a toe problem. Andy Dalton has not been sacked and not thrown a pick in back-to-back games for the first time.

The Titans got manhandled by Dallas, and Cincinnati is even more physical. Tennessee must find a way to slow a versatile Bengals running game.

Oakland (0-2) at New England (1-1)

Tally Ho! Well, not quite yet. First the Raiders are heavy underdogs in New England, where they haven't won in 20 years. Remember the Tuck Rule playoff game in the 2001 season?

Then Oakland heads to London to, uh, host Miami.

The Patriots want to spread the ball more in the passing game. Considering Tom Brady has Rob Gronkowski and Julian Edelman as his favorite targets, the alternative isn't bad.

Houston (2-0) at New York Giants (0-2)

The Giants have looked even worse at times in this slow start than they did in going 0-6 a year ago. With an inconsistent offensive line in front of an up-and-down Eli Manning, New York could use more from its running game, defense and special teams. Hasn't happened so far.

Lots of good things are happening thus far for Houston, but be wary: The Texans were 2-0 in 2013 and then lost 14 straight. They could have a big edge here because of their strong pass rush.

Dallas (1-1) at St. Louis (1-1)

If the Cowboys can run the ball with DeMarco Murray, they'll keep their mediocre defense off the field and have a chance. It worked great last week at Tennessee.

Injury-ravaged St. Louis is down to third-string QB Austin Davis. But he was solid in beating Tampa Bay.

Kansas City (0-2) at Miami (1-1)

The Chiefs also are dealing with more than their share of injuries, and unlike 2013, they aren't forcing turnovers - as in zero so far.

Losing Knowshon Moreno could stagnate Miami's run game, which means more burden on quarterback Ryan Tannehill and an unproductive passing attack.

Welker's return brings more concussion questions

DENVER (AP)—Wes Welker's receiving stats over a productive NFL career are impressive. Still, there's another set of numbers associated with him that cannot be ignored: three concussions, nine months.

Cleared to play following his third diagnosed concussion since November, the Broncos receiver will get back in a game Sunday, when Denver travels to Seattle for a Super Bowl rematch. Welker's suspension for testing positive for amphetamines in the offseason ended when the NFL and the union agreed to a revamped drug policy.

Still, the comeback feels a bit rushed, with the potential for life-altering consequences if the next big hit the 33-year-old takes to the head winds up being his last.

"We know that having multiple concussions is not good," said Dr. Julian Bailes, clinical professor of neurosurgery at the University of Chicago, and co-director of the NorthShore Neurological Institute in Evanston, Illinois, who noted that all sorts of factors must be taken into account on an individual basis. "It's not necessarily career-ending. ... A contact-sport athlete who's had multiple concussions in a short period of time does risk further concussions and risks that it becomes a season- or career-ending proposition if they return to play."

Welker returns less than a month since leaving an Aug. 23 preseason game after a hit to the head.

On Wednesday, he said he'd been medically cleared to play in the past week or so. But his drug suspension delayed his comeback by at least a game, a layoff he said was probably for the best. He has heard ongoing debate about his future - whether an 11-year NFL veteran who's earned more than $20 million along with a reputation as one of the game's best slot receivers should even bother playing anymore.

"I appreciate their concern, I really do," said Welker, who has 841 catches for 9,358 yards. "But at the same time, I feel great. I feel sharp and I feel ready to go."

An NFL player's assessment of his own health is one of the most important factors in determining when he returns. It's also a reason the NFL has no hard-and-fast rules about saying, for instance, that three concussions in less than 12 months should rule a player out.

"It would create a tremendous disincentive to report that third concussion," says Chris Nowinski, a driving force behind research on the topic. "You really want to leave the decision in the hands of a great doctor and an honest patient and let them make the best decision for that athlete."

The 5-foot-9, 185-pound Welker has been going over the middle and taking punishment for decades—in high school, at Texas Tech, and with three NFL teams.

AP

In this Aug. 23, 2014, file photo, Denver Broncos wide receiver Wes Welker (83) stretches prior to an NFL preseason football game against the Houston Texans in Denver.

But he passed the NFL's revamped return-to-play protocols established in 2009; independent doctors cleared him to play after comparing his brain function to the "baseline" numbers established in pre-training camp tests that look at memory, concentration and other cognitive functions.

It is an inexact, still-evolving science, but the doctors say he's ready to be back on the field, using a new, bigger helmet.

Ultimately, it's a decision every player with a head injury makes for himself. Former Titans tight end Frank Wycheck got two concussions in the span of a month in 2003, missed six games, then finished the season. But Wycheck then made the difficult decision to retire, even though he was under contract and had the talent to continue playing.

Like Wycheck, Welker is still in search of a Super Bowl ring.

"The physical stuff you can't hide from," Wycheck said. "If you have lingering effects and you go back into a game, from all my reading and studying on it ... it could prove to be fatal. And I would hate for him to put himself in that situation just to chase a ring."

A ring. Fame. Money. Fans. Teammates.

That all drives players to keep going, even when common sense dictates otherwise.

"You don't want to let your teammates down," said Dr. Alex Valadka, who consults Major League Baseball and is the CEO of the Seton Brain and Spine Institute. "It doesn't matter if you're somebody who's sitting on a bench as a third-stringer or you're a star athlete making millions and millions a year."

There is a growing and persuasive catalog of the devastation head injuries can cause: suicides by ex-players such as Junior Seau and Dave Duerson, whose brains revealed signs of a disease associated with multiple concussions. Last week, data released by the NFL in connection with concussion lawsuits estimated that nearly three in 10 retired players would be expected to develop Alzheimer's disease or at least moderate dementia.

"If you have an ankle injury and you rehab it and you're 100 percent, then you should be allowed to return to play," said Richard Figler, co-medical director of the Cleveland Clinic Concussion Center. "With a brain injury, the question is: Is that 100 percent the true 100 percent?"

PIC

From Page 28

lo riding the bench for most of the game for unknown reasons.

The closest that they could get was at 19, 66-47, on Dela Rosa's coast-to-coast layup with two minutes and 54 seconds left in the third.

PIC's biggest lead was at 86-58 in the three-minute mark of the contest with the final score the only thing left to be settled.

Bart Demapan paced PIC with 19 points, while veteran James Abuy and the youthful Jack Aranda chipping in 18 and 17 markers.

Darwin Barbo had a quiet 15 points and made several unselfish plays setting up teammates Demapan and Aranda.

Dela Rosa led Shirley's losing cause with 21 points, Jugos finished with 15, while Usi and Angel Catungal combined for 20 markers.

Pacific Islands Club 94 – Demapan 19, Abuy 18, Aranda 17, Barbo 15, Hambros 9, Quitugua 8, Babauta 2, Bartolo 2, Tolentino 2.

Shirley's-Century Hotel 69 – Dela Rosa 21, Jugos 15, Catungal 10, Usi 10, Aguilar 9, Manibusan 2, Rabasto 2.

Scoring by quarters: 22-15, 43-33, 72-47, 94-69.

SSC

From Page 28

than Sheu.

"The older SSC team members were mid-lane for encouragement and safety, as the younger ones swam their very first events. There was a lot of celebration and cheering as the swimmers finished their untimed events," SSC president and assistant coach Emma Perez said in an email sent to *Saipan Tribune* last Saturday.

Meanwhile, the older SSC swimmers will have their season debut on Oct. 4 as Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation host its first timed (official) event at the Marpi pool. SSC swimmers have until Sept. 24 to register for the one-day competition, while the club is looking for timers for next month's tournament and must confirm with the club on or before Sept. 26.

Entry fee for the competition is $5 per event (individual swim) and $7 for relay and are payable to NMISF. There are 12 individual events slated for the Oct. 4 competition. The list includes 50m, 100m, 200, 400m, and 800m freestyle, 50m and 100m butterfly, 50m and 100m breaststroke, 50m and 100m backstroke, and 200m individual medley. Relay events will be announced later.

GHASIAS

From Page 28

trimmed the 43-55 halftime deficit to 7, 78-71, after three quarters. Threatened, Ghasias Brothers went all out in the final canto, firing 29 points with Ben scoring 11 of them and Freddie chipping in 8. Ben was held to one field goal in the first half of the fourth frame, but unloaded three straight triples in the final half, while Freddie logged the last basket for Ghasias Brothers. Ben and Freddie outscored the entire Ali'i crew in the fourth period, as the latter registered only 17 points.

Ali'i fell short in the fourth, as only Errol Peredo and Nate Mateo drilled more than two field goals for the deposed champion in the payoff canto. Ali'i clearly missed the services of last season's MVP Kobee Mendoza and Finals MVP Raymond Velasco in the title showdown against the Freddie Pelisamen-led Ghasias Brothers.

With their two key players out, Peredo tried to carry the fight for Ali'i early in the game and was successful, as he converted four consecutive 3-pointers to keep up with Freddie and company. Peredo finished the first period with 12 points, a point ahead of Freddie and the match was even, 21-21, after the opening 10 minutes of play.

Freddie continued to pile up points for Ghasias Brothers, while Peredo was held to one field goal and two free throws. With Peredo struggling and only Mateo steppinng up for Ali'i, while Freddie was still on fire, Ghasias Brothers sizzled for 34 points to open a 12-point halftime advantage. Freddie nailed 12 of Ghasias' first 16 points in the second quarter and finished what he started, scoring the team's last five baskets.

Freddie finished the first half with 34 points, just 9 markers short of the total production of Ali'i and he was not done yet, as he added 10 more in the third to thwart the dethroned champion's repeated comeback bids. Freddie registered a string of 6 points early in the third before slowing down in the latter part of that period, while Peredo regained his form and scored 10 markers to keep Ali'i afloat.

After letting Freddie run the show in the first three periods, Ali'i finally found a way to neutralize the Ghasias Brothers main gunner. However, Ali'i forgot a deadly shooter in Ben, who only made one field goal and two charities in the first three frames before hitting his target in the fourth to help Ghasias steal the championship.

Ghasias Brothers 107 – F. Pelisamen 52, B. Pelisamen 16, Acosta 10, R. Pelisamen 9, Ruluked 6, Olaitiman 6, J. Pelisamen 4.

Ali'i 88 – Peredo 29, Mateo 23, De Dios 12, Camacho 12, Devero 10, Hernandez 2.

Scoring by quarters: 21-21, 55-43, 78-71, 107-88.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Baltimore	93	61	.604	—
New York	79	75	.513	14
Toronto	78	76	.506	15
Tampa Bay	75	80	.484	18 1/2
Boston	67	88	.432	26 1/2

Central Division

Detroit	86	68	.558	—
Kansas City	83	70	.542	2 1/2
Cleveland	80	74	.519	6
Chicago	70	84	.455	16
Minnesota	66	88	.429	20

West Division

x-Los Angeles	96	59	.619	—
Oakland	84	70	.545	11 1/2
Seattle	83	71	.539	12 1/2
Houston	68	87	.439	28
Texas	61	93	.396	34 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

x-Washington	90	64	.584	—
Atlanta	76	78	.494	14
New York	75	80	.484	15 1/2
Miami	74	80	.481	16
Philadelphia	71	84	.458	19 1/2

Central Division

St. Louis	87	68	.561	—
Pittsburgh	83	71	.539	3 1/2
Milwaukee	80	75	.516	7
Cincinnati	71	84	.458	16
Chicago	69	86	.445	18

West Division

z-Los Angeles	88	67	.568	—
San Francisco	84	70	.5453	1/2
San Diego	73	81	.474	14 1/2
Colorado	64	91	.413	24
Arizona	62	93	.400	26

z-clinched playoff berth
x-clinched division

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tinian, Star Magic top youth league foes

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Tinian and Star Magic barged into the win column of the 2014 BANMI Youth League after recording contrasting wins in their respective age groups last week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

In the U18 division, Tinian prevailed in its debut game against Rollers A last Thursday, 52-47, while Star Magic routed Laly 4 in the U21 pairing last Friday, 66-43.

The 23-point victory over Laly 4 made up for Star Magic's 49-79 debut loss to Dream Team last Tuesday, while the defeat was the second in a row for Laly 4.

Star Magic showed brilliance in the third quarter to break the game wide open after leading by only 8 at halftime, 30-22. Star Magic went on a 21-4 scoring surge in the pivotal third to take a 51-26 advantage with only one quarter left. Eight different players contributed in Star Magic's third quarter assault and Christopher Muleta led the team's balance offense with his 6 points, surpassing Laly 4's entire output in that period, as the latter only drew 2 points each from Tommy Joe Cangco and Keith Tawanpiy.

Laly 4 tried to mount a comeback in the final canto, but only managed to cut the lead to as low as 17, 36-53, as it could not launch a long rally.

Muleta and Mark Tala topscored for Star Magic with 12 points apiece, while their four other teammates added at least 5 points each. Seven of the 12 players who suited up for Star Magic made it to the board, while only seven scored for Laly 4 with Derek Olopai leading his team with his 13 markers.

In the U18 game, Tinian showed some consistency in the second half after a so-so performance in the first 20 minutes of play to eke out a 5-point win over Rollers A.

Tinian was just up by 2 at halftime, 22-20, after being held to 8 points in the second quarter, but managed to gain more cushion in the last two periods, scoring 15 points apiece in the third and fourth frames.

Joseph Sablan drilled 6 of his 11 points in the third period to lift Tinian to a 37-31 advantage, entering the fourth. He added 3 more in the final canto and drew a lot of help from his teammates to prevent Rollers A from making a comeback. Ignacio Borja was among those who provided support to Sablan, as he drained the last two marginal baskets for Tinian. Borja went on to match Sablan's 11 points, while Kobee Mendoza chipped in 9 in their debut win.

The Rollers A absorbed their second setback in as many games this season as they also fell to Kagman Sparks last week, 54-57. Prince Factor led Rollers A's losing cause, firing 18 points.

THURSDAY

Tinian 52 – Borja 11, J. Sablan 11, Mendoza 9, D. Sablan 6, San Nicolas 5, De Leon 2, Sandbergen 2, Jumao-As 2.

Rollers A 47 – Factor 18, Arciaga 7, Camacho 6, Rios 6, Malonzo 4, Toves 2, Iglecias 2, Babauta 2, Deocares 1.

Scoring by quarters: 14-7, 22-20, 37-31, 52-47.

FRIDAY

Star Magic 66 – Tala 12, Muleta 12, Zapanta 9, Quemado 7, Velasco 7, Pena 5, Madero 4, Manzano 3, Nava 3, Crecencia 2, Manalo 2.

Laly 4 – Olopai 13, Rogolifoi 8, T. Cangco 4, Tawanpiy 4, E. Lisua 4, B. Lisua 4, Sablan 2.

Scoring by quarters: 16-12, 30-22, 51-26, 66-43.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Laly 4's Enrique Lisua taps the ball away from the hands of Star Magic's Jomac Manzano during the third quarter of their game in the U21 division of the BANMI youth league last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Destroyers pulling away in Masters division

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Jokers Destroyers are slowly pulling away in the Masters division of the Saipan Electronic Darts Association Bud Light Dart League in last week's action held in various bars on the island.

The Destroyers lived up to their name and demolished the Jokers TRA-Bull Makerz, 11-6, to hike their record to 54-31 and a 14-win advantage over their opponents and closest pursuer.

The TRA-Bull Makers are second at 40-45, followed closely by the 38-47 slates of the Smoke Pub Masters Outlawz and the Sand Juvy Shoot Balut.

Sand Juvy edged the Outlawz, 10-7, to tie their foes in the four-team standings.

In the Thursday Flame Tree B division, the Naked Fish One Shot completed a 12-3 triumph over Joe's Serial Killaz to keep their bid of climbing out of the lower half of the standings in the eight-team field.

The One Shot are at sixth with 38-37, nine wins behind co-leaders Sand Juvy Team Dart Balas and Naked Fish Na'Gupu (47-28).

In other results, Jonny's Kyodai squeezed out an 8-7 win over Ridin' Darrty, while Na'Gupu completed a 12-3 thrashing of the Jokers Warriors and co-leader Team Dart scored an easy 14-1 triumph over the cellar-dwelling Smoke Pub Team Figan.

The Jokers Latte Darts suffered a 9-6 loss to Route 33 but remained on top of the standings at 53-22 and keep a two-game lead over their opponents, who are still in second place at 51-24.

Results in the Tuesday B had the X-ecutioners beating the High On Darts, 12-3, the Snipers trouncing the Sparks, 10-5, the Mekaniks nipping the Fearless, 8-7, and the Dartaholics escaping with an 8-7 decision over the Shooters II.

The Hunters eked out a 9-8 win over Sakudei, the Ridin Darrty clipped the Mafia, 11-6, the Outlawz pummeled the Predators 13-4, and the Mix Blood routed the Bud Brothers, 14-3, in A division games.

In other division results: (Fanihi) Pu3ska 9, Bud Kings 6; Sniper 10, Feelin' Lucky 5; 80 Proofers 11, Chagi Fan 4; Mixblood 8, Mekanids 7. (Chichirika) Ta Chagi 12, Bull It 3; Hit 'Em 13, Jump It 2; Sparts 13, Koi 2; Barcode Breakers 8, Disciples 7. (Ladies) Bull It 8, Kitty Kats 7; Divs 13, Shooters 2; Avengers 9, Mixed Nuts 6.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The Naked Fish One Shot tries to fan their campaign in the Flame Tree B Division with the resumption of the Saipan Electronic Darts Association competition this week.

CFLA plans to hold high school league

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Football League Association is planning to hold a full-tackle league for all high school students, which is separate from the regular youth and adult leagues.

CFLA chair John Blanco said they plan to start the season either during or after the school year in 2015.

Blanco, who is also the athletic director at Mt. Carmel School, said he will lead the Knights' football program.

"I'm putting up a football team here at Mt. Carmel and at the same time we hope the other schools will follow and form their own teams," said Blanco.

He added that the CFLA will help Marianas High School, Koblerville High School, Saipan Southern High School, and Kagman High School in forming, funding, and training their respective squads.

"The CFLA wants to find funding for the other teams. We would like them to form their teams. The CFLA board will be working with sponsors and donors to find funds and gear for them. We at MCS will be doing a separate fundraising."

The high school football league is open to everyone whose age is between 16 to 18 years old and players who will make the roster need to maintain a good academic standing.

"As long as you're making good grades, you make the team and you can play. We want to promote sports and the idea of fair play but education is of equal importance," added Blanco.

The CFLA's Youth League opens on Oct. 25 with three competing teams, namely, the defending champion Eastern Lightning, the Northern Saints, and the Southern Thunder.

Tournament format will have a two round-robin system where each team will face their opponents twice. The top two teams will play in the finals with the winner earning the right to face the Guam champion after the season.

The CFLA board is also looking at opening the men's league by early 2015 or after the youth league season.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
High school students will soon learn the rudiments of the gridiron as the Commonwealth Football League Association is planning to hold a full-tackle league for the CNMI's high schools.

Tigers win appeal, top KC to boost AL Central lead

PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Tinian, Star Magic top youth league foes

PAGE 27

PIC clinches Inter-Hotel caging crown

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Pacific Islands Club Saipan hardly broke a sweat in cruising to an easy 94-69 win over a bewildered Shirley's-Century Hotel side to claim the 2014 Budweiser Inter-Hotel Basketball League crown late Friday night at the packed Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

PIC showed no signs of rust after the one-game finals was delayed for more than a week due to the availability of the Ada Gym and both teams.

The Noel Verder-mentored squad used their height advantage to the hilt in pulling away midway in the second period.

Shirley's big man Erick Dela Rosa and sweet-shooting John Jugos kept their team within striking distance, 24-21, with barely two minutes gone in the second.

But PIC used a 7-0 spurt to erect a 10-point bubble that further ballooned as the game went on.

Shirley's could not find an answer for PIC's full-court trapping defense that prevented them to set up their offense. A number of times Shirley's ballhandlers committed back court violations that further hurt their campaign.

There were times that Shirley's managed to get the ball on their frontcourt but PIC's defense was still there, using a 2-3 zone that blocked the driving lanes while their outside shooters couldn't also find their mark.

PIC enjoyed a 43-33 halftime lead then completely broke the game wide open with a 13-3 exchange to erect the first of several 20-point leads.

Shirley's failed to come up with a decent rally after that with shooter Rommel Usi and veteran playmaker Fredel Sedil-

See PIC on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Pacific Island Club's Jack Aranda drives against Shirley's Coffee Shop/Century Hotel's Erick Dela Rosa during the third quarter of their title game in the Inter-Hotel caging last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Newcomers kick off SSC season

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan Swim Club had a fitting start for the 2014-2015 season, as its newcomers had their first swim event last Saturday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

Twenty-five young SSC members, who just joined the club two to three months ago, participated in at least two of the 11 events in last weekend's "Minnie Me" meet in front of an encouraging crowd. The club lined up 10m, 15m, 25m and 50m freestyle, 10m, 15m, 25m, and 50m backstroke, 15m and 15m kickboard, and 5m streamlines races for members of the club's Guppies, Dolphins, and Sharks groups. Swimmers were categorized based on their age groups and skills.

For the Sharks group, there were five participants: Jan Matthew Millo, Christine Mago, Kaith Lynn and Mark Chavez, and Kisuk Lee. The Dolphins had Nicole Santos, Aubrey, Audrey, and Richard Castro, Nathan and Eunice Pagaduan, Julie Ann Chavez, Jan Marini Milo, and Tristan Raito, while Guppies had Traci Pillarina, Jack Raito, Nash Santos, Nolan Cultura, Jose Lopez, Hayden Sablan, Piper Raito, Alonzo Acosta, Dave and Diane Bautista, and Jona-

See SSC on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Saipan Swim Club swimmers listen to race officials during a briefing for the "Minnie Me" meet last Saturday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

Ghasias Brothers dethrone Ali'i

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Ghasias Brothers foiled Ali'i's title defense bid after cruising to a 107-88 victory in the winner-take-all finale in the 2014 DLX Invitational Basketball League last Saturday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

As expected, Freddie Pelisamen towed Ghasias to the title win, as he exploded for 52 big points, the most he scored this season. Ben Pelisamen backed him up by adding 16 markers, including 9 straight points in the fourth quarter that dealt the final blows to Ali'i's unsuccessful attempt for back-to-back championships.

The fourth period started with Ghasias Brothers losing a double-digit spread, as Ali'i

See GHASIAS on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Ghasias Brothers' Freddie Pelisamen eludes the defense of Ali'i's Errol Peredo during the fourth quarter of their semis game in the DLX caging early this month at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court. Pelisamen scored 52 points to power Ghasias Brothers to a 107-88 title win over Ali'i last Saturday.